

## Ekeus expected in Baghdad Monday

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The head of the U.N. Special Commission on Disarmament in Iraq (UNSCOM) is expected to arrive in Baghdad Monday, a day later than planned because of "technical problems," the United Nations said Saturday. Rolf Ekeus's visit follows the U.N. Security Council's call Friday for Iraq to stop preventing U.N. experts from inspecting sites where they might find prohibited weapons. Mr. Ekeus "will arrive in Iraq Monday because of technical problems related to an aircraft which is to bring him from Bahrain to Baghdad," an UNSCOM source told AFP in Baghdad. Mr. Ekeus is to stay in Baghdad until Wednesday and meet high-level Iraqi officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. His mission is part of an UNSCOM-Iraq agreement concluded in June under which Mr. Ekeus returns to Baghdad every two months.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## Oman mediating Gulf dispute

MANAMA (AP) — Oman has embarked on a mediation effort to resolve a long-standing territorial dispute between Bahrain and Qatar. Foreign Minister Yusef Ben Alawi said Friday his country was eager to improve relations between Bahrain and Qatar in an effort to strengthen the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to which the three nations belong. The six-member alliance also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Oman currently holds the GCC's rotating presidency. "We are working to establish a formula that is good not only for the two states, but one that serves all relations among Gulf Cooperation Council countries," the official Oman News Agency quoted Mr. Ben Alawi as saying. He said "political differences" between Bahrain and Qatar had sharpened, but that both countries still wanted to resolve their dispute peacefully.

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# King: Jordan is entering a new era

No going back on democracy; attempts to tamper with security and stability will not be tolerated  
Muasher says there is evidence that 'some official parties in Iraq' were behind the disturbances in south

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday Jordan was entering a new era but there could be no backing from democracy and that any attempt to tamper with the Kingdom's security and stability would not be tolerated.

The King, speaking to reporters after chairing a Cabinet session that reviewed the situation in the country after the riots, was asked whether Iraq was involved in the riots.

"Your imagination is not far from the truth," the King replied. "We have evidence derived from investigations."

Shortly after the King spoke, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said "there is proof of the involvement of some official Iraqi parties" in the riots.

The King told reporters that "all these questions will be investigated by justice."

"There are some people who have been misled and were not fully aware of what happened," he said. "They will be dealt with separately. They may have learned a lesson from these events. But the others, plotters and instigators, will be referred to court."

The King said the unrest targeted the democratic process of the Kingdom and vowed to deal sternly with any attempt to tamper with public or the private property or the security and stability of the country.

"We have all hopes in the future," he said. "I believe the coming stage will be a new start that is void of troubles and where there

## King to visit Bahrain soon

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said Saturday he planned to visit Bahrain as soon as the Emir of Bahrain returns home after a trip abroad. He said he would also visit other Gulf countries and expressed confidence that Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations would return to normal soon.

will be more (nation)-building."

The King said calm had been restored throughout the Kingdom.

Dr. Muasher said 32 from among those held after the riots were released by Saturday afternoon and that those who did not take part in the riots and violence would also be released during this week.

He said those who were found to have been directly involved in the riots and violence or in instigating the unrest would be referred to the State Security Court for trial.

Answering questions, Dr. Muasher confirmed that diplomatic action was being taken against Iraq, but declined to give details except that the charge d'affaires at the Iraqi embassy was summoned to the Foreign Ministry (see separate story).

Asked on whether the government intends to outlaw any political party, the pro-Iraq Arab Socialist Baath Party in particular, Dr. Muasher said "appropriate measures" would be taken after the court issues its ruling in all cases.

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## Japanese foreign minister arrives for talks on peace process, bilateral relations

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda arrived in Amman on Saturday on a 24-hour visit aimed at discussing the stalled Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Japanese ties.

Mr. Ikeda, the most senior representative of the government of Ryutaro Hashimoto to visit Jordan, will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti today before leaving for Gaza and Israel.

During his visit, Mr. Ikeda is also expected to sign an agreement under which Tokyo would give Jordan \$7 million to rebuild the Sheikh Hussein Bridge and access roads and terminal facilities at the northern crossing point between Jordan and Israel.

Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura said the visit of the minister had two main objectives: Discussing the status of the Middle East peace process and means to boost Jordanian-Japanese relations.

Mr. Ikeda is expected to voice Tokyo's concern over the course of the peace process after the election of right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister

of Israel in May and urge continued Jordanian efforts to reinvigorate the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, Ambassador Kimura said.

On the bilateral front, Mr. Ikeda will also review with Mr. Kabariti the outcome of discussions on Japanese assistance for several projects in human resources development and water supply. No definite announcements are expected in this context. Officials said the topics were being discussed at experts level before finalisation.

No official talks were scheduled for Mr. Ikeda in Amman Saturday night. Mr. Ikeda was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Ambassador Kimura and attended by the Japanese community living in Jordan.

Mr. Ikeda, who arrived by road from Damascus after talks there with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad (see story on page 12), visited the ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash on his way to Amman. He was received upon arrival at the Ramtha border post by Foreign Ministry Chief of Protocol Ahmad Al Hassan.

The official spokesman for Mr. Ikeda is expected to brief the press around Sunday noon after the foreign minister's talks with Prime Minister Kabariti.



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday chairs a session of the Council of Ministers (photo by Yusef Allan)

## Government asks senior Iraqi 'diplomat' to leave, reviews status of others

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Saturday asked a senior diplomat at the Iraqi embassy to leave the country and to shorten the term of the press attache at the mission for their alleged involvement in intelligence activities, informed sources said.

The expulsion notice was the firmest diplomatic action that Jordan has taken against Iraq following "clear indications" that the Iraqi government had instigated last week's riots in southern Jordan (see separate story), the sources noted.

The sources said that the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Ahmad Al Hassan, summoned the Iraqi charge d'affaires, Hikmat Abdul Razak Al Hajou, who holds the rank of minister plenipotentiary, and conveyed the demand to him.

"The government asked that Khaled Rashid Musleh, a first secretary at the Iraqi

embassy who arrived here recently, leave the Kingdom because the Foreign Ministry has rejected his nomination for accreditation," said one source, who did not want to be identified. "Mr. Musleh has been given three days to leave the Kingdom."

According to the source, the Jordanian authorities have information that Mr. Musleh "is an Iraqi intelligence officer."

Earlier reports had said Mr. Musleh was banned from entering Jordan from Iraq when he arrived to take office. The source corrected that report and said Mr. Musleh was at the Iraqi mission and the embassy had filed a nomination for his accreditation as a diplomat in Jordan.

The source said that Mr. Hassan also informed Mr. Hajou, who is head of the mission in the absence of Ambassador Nouri Al Weiss, the government would like to see that Adel Ibrahim, press attache at the embassy, leave Jordan "as

soon as possible."

Independent sources said Mr. Ibrahim's term of office was about to end. The Jordanian government would not mind if he stayed for "one or two weeks" but "not a few months."

Earlier, sources had indicated that Mr. Ibrahim, who took office here in December 1992, had already been served notice to leave on grounds of "activities incompatible with his diplomatic status" — a euphemism for intelligence gathering or spying activities.

In general, Jordan wants to reduce the number of diplomats at the Iraqi embassy," said another source. There are more than 20 Iraqi diplomats accredited to Jordan while the number of Jordanian diplomats in Baghdad is only three, including Ambassador Basam Qaqish.

Also discussed during Saturday's meeting at the Foreign Ministry was the

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## Some detainees freed; party members held

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As authorities on Saturday continued releasing some of those arrested in connection with last week's disturbances in the south, at least two political parties said some of their leaders and members continued to be arrested.

With the reports of releases and arrests, it was not immediately possible to determine how many remained in detention. Officials said early last week that 150 people were arrested, but then raised the number to 190.

On Wednesday and Thursday, authorities released an unknown number of people after questioning them and determining that they were not involved in the attacks against government buildings and banks in Karak and other towns of south, security sources said.

They said only those found to have directly taken part in the acts of violence would remain in jail pending legal proceedings.

Badreddin Al Wadyan, governor of Karak, the southern town which was hit by two days of rioting

last week, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Saturday that security forces had released 30 people held after the riots.

Among those who were still held on Saturday were at least 10 members and supporters of the pro-Iraq Jordan Arab Socialist Baath Party, nine supporters and members of the Jordanian Communist Party, 14 members of the Jordan People's Democratic Party, 13 members of the Jordan People's Unity Party and the leader of the Ansar party, according to party statements received by the Jordan Times.

Also remaining in detention were Nayef Tawara, publisher of the Al Bilad weekly, who was arrested by police last week, Al Aswaj journalist Fuad Hussein and Al Ahali weekly chief editor Osama Rantissi.

Al Ahali is the mouthpiece of the Jordan People's Democratic Party, an offshoot of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

On Saturday, the Jordan People's Unity Party said 13 of its members were

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## Army quits Karak; curfew lifted

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities on Saturday withdrew the army from Karak and lifted a curfew imposed on the southern town following two days of riots there and in other towns in the south in protest against the increase in the prices of bread and fodder.

Army soldiers moved away from the town along with their armoured personnel carriers and equipment, residents reached by the phone said.

They also said police maintained a presence in the key roads leading to Karak but were not present in strength within the town. "The curfew has been completely lifted because total calm now prevails in the town," Karak Governor Badreddin Al Wadyan told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The governor also told Petra that the army had been withdrawn from the town and that 30 from among those detained following the riots were released.

Other detainees who did not take part in the riots although they participated in demonstrations after Friday prayers on Aug. 16 are expected to be released gradually, security sources said.

"Those found to have taken direct part in the violence and sabotage against public and private property will be sent to court," said a security source.

Security sources have said that unsigned leaflets were distributed in Karak on Aug. 15 urging people to take to the streets to protest the increase in the prices of bread and fodder. It was not immediately known whether investigations had established the origin of the leaflets.

The curfew was imposed on Karak on Aug. 17, after town residents staged violent demonstrations, clashed with police and attacked government buildings and private property for two days running. On Sunday, the army was deployed.

No incidents were reported since Saturday in Karak or any of the other trouble-hit southern towns, including Tafileh, Ma'an, Muta, Moab and Al Mazar.

Unofficial estimates put the damage caused in Karak at JD4 million.

Apart from slight injuries suffered by both protesters and security men, no casualties were reported from the riots. Security forces said they were under strict orders not to use live ammunition and restrict their anti-riot measures to tear-gas and rubber bullets.

The curfew was completely lifted and the army withdrawn from Karak

(Continued on page 7)

## PLO says peace talks will resume before Sept. 2

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestinian minister who will lead the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) team to peace talks with Israel said on Saturday that Israel had informed President Yasser Arafat that it wanted to begin the negotiations before Sept. 2.

"The Israelis have informed President Arafat that talks between the committees will start before Sept. 2, but they did not set a firm date," Local Government Minister Saeb Erekat told Reuters. Mr. Erekat will head the PLO team to the talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak told Reuters: "It will start soon...We are not yet announcing a date."

On Thursday, Mr. Netanyahu, elected on May

29, telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to tell him that peace talks with the PLO last held before the Israeli poll would resume "in the very near future."

Mr. Netanyahu was apparently shaken by Mr. Mubarak's suggestion earlier on Thursday that he might cancel a Middle East economic summit in November over Israel's stalling peace moves.

One PLO official, speaking on condition he not be named, said on Saturday that Israel was anxious to have the talks going before a meeting of international donors who have pledged support for the peace process.

Israel wants the talks to start before the Sep. 5 international donors meeting so they will ease pressure on them over freezing the

peace talks and to show the donors it is committed to the peace process," the PLO official said.

There is still no Israeli announcement of a date for a long-delayed troop redeployment in the West Bank town of Hebron. The PLO regards the redeployment, to which Israel's previous government committed itself in an accord signed with the PLO last September, as a test of Mr. Netanyahu's peace intentions.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai recently presented a revised redeployment plan to Mr. Netanyahu.

Israel's cabinet statement on Friday quoted Mr. Netanyahu, who wants to renegotiate the Hebron deal at the peace talks, as saying no new redeployment agreement would be signed without first being present-

ed to the entire government. Israel has said it would not implement the Hebron plan until the Palestinian National Authority closed its offices in Arab East Jerusalem.

Palestinians have rejected the condition as well as Israel's intention to renegotiate the Hebron deal.

Aside from issues like Hebron hanging over from interim peace deals signed by Israel's previous government, the Palestinians and Israeli still have to negotiate a final peace.

Final status issues include borders, refugees, Jerusalem, Jewish settlements, and the nature of the Palestinian entity. Mr. Netanyahu has said interim issues should be settled before moving to final status matters.

The PNA, meanwhile freed a West Bank Hamas

Islamic group leader it had detained for almost six months at Israel's demand.

Palestinians said on Saturday that Sheikh Hassan Yousef was released from jail in the Ramallah self-rule enclave on Friday.

Mr. Yousef, reached at home in Ramallah on Saturday, told Reuters: "I was released yesterday at noon. There were no conditions for my release. There were no charges against me from the beginning."

Mr. Yousef, a Hamas leader in the Ramallah area, was rounded up with about 900 Islamists after Hamas and Islamic Jihad suicide bombers killed 59 people in Israel in four attacks in February and March.

Israel and the United States put pressure on Mr. Arafat to crack down on militant groups after the attacks.



# Taleban vow to push drive for Islamic rule

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghanistan's powerful Taleban militia force has vowed it would not enter into any negotiations with Kabul and would pursue its goal to set up a truly Islamic government in the country.

"We will defeat all internal and external conspiracies to weaken us and thwart our march toward supremacy of Islamic values in Afghanistan," an important Taleban leader, Amir Khan Muttaqi, said in an interview.

Mr. Muttaqi, speaking to AFP in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta on Friday, dismissed recent Kabul overtures for negotiations as propaganda aimed at creating division in the militia.

He said the reported accord between Kabul rulers and northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum to reopen the Salang Highway and other such moves would not bring peace to the war-torn country.

"Peace and order will return to Afghanistan only under an Islamic Taleban government," said Mr. Muttaqi, head of the information wing of the militia at their base in Kandahar near the Pakistan border.

Mr. Muttaqi alleged that some foreign countries were apprehensive and did not want Taleban control in Afghanistan. He pointedly blamed Iran, Russia and India in this connection, without elaborating.

Since emerging from Koranic schools in November 1994, the militia of mainly ethnic Pushtun people has established its sway over half of the country. It has been besieging Kabul for about nine months to topple President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The Taleban headline stance is considered in Afghan and diplomatic circles a major sticking point, amid U.N. mediation efforts

led by its new special envoy Robert Holl and a momentum for peace generated by recent Kabul government expansion and its talks with General Dostum.

The militia is known to enjoy close relations with Pakistan, which says it is neutral and extends support to U.N. efforts and formation of a broad-based consensus government in Kabul through negotiations among all factions.

Fighting has been reported from eastern Paktia province in the past two weeks, although Kabul front-line have been quiet in recent weeks.

A Mujahedeen information service, Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), Saturday quoted unnamed Taleban sources as saying the militia had seized a major military centre of Afghan Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami in Paktia the previous day.

Clauses in Paktia, a province near the Pakistan border, have been admitted by the Hezb-e-Islami but their spokesman has said the Taleban were making exaggerated claims to shore up their "sagging" morale.

Meanwhile, a local newspaper, The News, said new differences had erupted in the Kabul coalition between Mr. Hekmatyar and President Rabbani's military strongman Ahmad Shah Masood.

Citing unidentified Afghan sources, it said the two camps were locked in a "subtle war" over a proposal by Mr. Hekmatyar's cabinet that the government expel former communists from the administration and ban their entry in future.

The report could not be independently confirmed, but informed sources in Kabul earlier this week spoke of an uneasiness over Hekmatyar-Dostum negotiations.

# Former president says Tehran regime killed at least 60 foes

BERLIN (R) — Former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr said on Friday at least 60 dissidents had been killed on the orders of the Iranian government in the last 15 years and warned there would be more bloodshed.

In an interview with Reuters at a secret location in Berlin on Friday evening, Mr. Bani-Sadr said the Tehran government would continue to liquidate political opponents inside and outside the country until Western states began to act with greater resolve.

"There were at least 60 people murdered by the regime since the coup against me," said Mr. Bani-Sadr, speaking in French and seated in a small two-room apartment crowded with more than a dozen heavily armed security guards.

"Yes, there will be more (assassinations) if the Western states do not act with resolve and with greater transparency against the regime," said the former president, who has lived in exile in Paris since his ouster in 1981.

He criticised the United States' approach to dealing with Iran, saying economic sanctions and military threats were counterproductive. But he also condemned the European stance "because everything is done too secretly."

Mr. Bani Sadr, 63, had just finished giving testimony for two days in a German court where five men are on trial for murdering four Iranian dissidents in a gangland-style shooting at a Berlin restaurant in 1992.

Saying he was satisfied with the German court's handling of the case and the questions he answered over the last two days, Mr. Bani Sadr appeared relaxed.

He told the court he had information from three independent sources that the 1992 execution of three Iranian Kurd leaders and their translator at the "Mykonos" restaurant was ordered by Iran's religious leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

He said the execution was also approved by Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian. But in Tehran, Iran's top judge urged Germany to refuse to admit Mr. Bani-Sadr's testimony, to guard its judicial reputation and avoid politicising the trial.

"What is the judicial validity of a ruling that would be based, even for a few hundredths of percent, on the testimony of a deceased person who has fled this country?" Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi asked in a



Abolhassan Bani-Sadr

mass prayer sermon.

German justice authorities issued an arrest warrant against Mr. Fallahian in March and federal prosecutor Bruno Jost said after hearing Mr. Bani-Sadr's testimony he would also examine the possibility of filing charges against Ayatollah Khamenei and Mr. Rafsanjani.

"Khamenei and Rafsanjani are the ones responsible for the murders," Mr. Bani-Sadr said.

The short, soft-spoken former president said he was eager to come to Berlin to testify because he is worried Germany has struck a deal with Iran to free the defendants ahead of time if they are convicted, an allegation that Bonn immediately rejected.

"I have proof of this," Mr. Bani-Sadr said. "I have to ask if (German Foreign Minister Klaus) Kinkel is the attorney of Rafsanjani."

Although mostly upbeat during the 45-minute interview, Mr. Bani-Sadr's trademark grin disappeared when recounting how he had delivered an advance warning to the murdered Iranian Kurd leaders in Germany about the threat of an attack.

"They were informed about the danger, but they did not take it seriously enough," he said. "They did not take any security precautions."

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Kuwaiti daily threatened with bomb attack

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti newspaper reported on Saturday that it had received three faxes threatening to bomb the newspaper if it criticised Arabs and Muslims rather than the "real enemy" Israel and its allies. None of the faxes received by the independent newspaper Al Watan were signed by an identifiable group, although two of the faxes were signed "a mujahid." "To the editor and journalists... the media should be directed at the real enemy, Israel and its allies, the pen should not be used as a weapon to divide Arabs and Muslims" said the first fax, published with the other two on the front page. The second fax said "the most important enemy is Israel and its allies from America" and accused the paper of being too afraid and cowardly to write anything about Israel and America. The third fax, which was unsigned, said simply "I will bomb your newspaper... Al Watan." The faxes, which were sent on Friday evening, did not cite any reports recently published by Al Watan which may have prompted the threats. Al Watan is an independent newspaper owned by Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sahab, a member of the ruling family and former oil minister.

## Prosecutor seeks stiff terms for pro-Kurds

ANKARA (AFP) — Ankara's state security prosecutor has called for prison sentences of over 20 years for 23 leaders of the pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party (HADEP) accusing them of "setting up an armed gang," their lawyers said Saturday. The move follows a June 23 party congress where assailants desecrated a Turkish flag, causing a public uproar in the country. HADEP Chairman Murat Bozlak and over 40 leading members of the party were arrested immediately after the incident. Their lawyers said the state security prosecutor had also accused the party of being "a legalised organisation" of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been waging a separatist war in southeastern Turkey since 1984. The prosecutor asked for prison terms of 22 years six months for Mr. Bozlak and 22 other party leaders, 15 years for another 17 party members and three years for a Kurdish ex-deputy.

## Sweden asks Lebanon for extradition

BEIRUT (AFP) — Sweden has asked Lebanon to extradite a Palestinian who escaped from a prison in the Scandinavian country where he was serving a sentence for armed robbery and other crimes, a judicial source said Saturday. The request for Ali Suleiman's extradition was made during a visit to General Prosecutor Adnan Addum in Beirut by a delegation from the Swedish embassy in Syria late Friday, the source said. Suleiman was recently arrested in Lebanon in line with an Interpol arrest warrant. He escaped from prison in Sweden through Denmark by using a false name, "William Faulter." He was serving two prison sentences, one for six years and another for 20 years for taking part as a member of a gang in a series of armed robberies and other crimes in Sweden. The source said Suleiman, who carried Palestinian travel documents, claimed upon his arrest that he had obtained Lebanese nationality in 1994. Mr. Addum was studying the extradition request, the source said, taking into account that Lebanon and Sweden are not bound by an extradition treaty and usually deal with such matters on the basis of mutual treatment.

## Treasure trove seized from Egyptian

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian police have arrested a wealthy businessman and seized a trove of treasures from ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome stashed away in a hotel suite he rented in Alexandria, a newspaper reported Saturday. Police described the Alexandria hotel room rented for the past seven years by Nadim Emile Zeidan as a veritable "museum," Al Wafid said. His collection included eight marble or stone statues from the time of the Pharaohs, (3,000 BC to 400 BC), eight Greco-Roman marble heads from between 300 BC and 300 AD and a number of Islamic ceramic items. It said, Coptic wooden icons of saints from between 580 and 639 AD, oil lamps and silver chests were also seized.

## Exiled Yemenis' trial delayed

SANAA (AFP) — The trial of Yemeni separatists who fled country after losing the 1994 civil war has been postponed until Sept. 14, judicial sources said Saturday. Fifteen southern leaders now living in Britain and several Arab states were summoned for trial for Aug. 24, accused of high treason and violating the constitution. But a court statement obtained by AFP said the trial had been put back for the fifth time to Sept. 14 because of the holding of a "judicial congress" between Aug. 20 and 25. The accused include former Yemen Socialist Party leader Ali Salem Al Beid, who took refuge in neighbouring Oman after losing his bid for secession of South Yemen after the May-July civil war in 1994.

# Gulf papers support Mubarak's stand over economic summit

DUBAI (AFP) — The Gulf press on Saturday praised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for threatening to scrap a Middle East economic conference if Israel does not honour peace process commitments.

"President Mubarak is speaking the thoughts of all Arabs, as it is impossible to hold a world economic conference in Cairo while Israel persists in impeding the peace process," said the Al-Itihad daily in the United Arab Emirates.

"The stance of President Mubarak is clear... the whole world has given (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu enough respite and can wait no longer," added the paper, which reflects the official viewpoint.

Mr. Mubarak said on Thursday that in spite of Israeli declarations of respect for the agreed-on principles of the peace process, "no progress has been made on the ground."

"I call on Israel to make progress, or there will be no sense in holding the economic conference," scheduled for November 12-14, he added in a televised speech to university students.

The Saudi daily Al Madi-na said the Israeli government "wants to have its cake and eat it too."

# 7 killed in Algerian blast — report

ALGIERS (AFP) — A bomb blast in a market at Bou Haroun in western Algeria killed seven people and injured several others, the weekly Al Watan reported here Saturday.

A statement released by the Algerian security services put the death toll in Friday's explosion at five, with five injured.

The bomb went off in a weekly open-air market, the paper said. The victims were identified as a woman and her 25-year-old daughter, another young woman and four boys, whose ages were not given.

Four other bombs were defused in the area in a follow-up operation by the security services, reported another newspaper. Liberte, adding that a man was killed by a bomb he was transporting in the neighbouring locality of Bou Ismail. A father and son were found with their throats cut on Tuesday in Chihani, near Al Taf in the southeast of the country after being kidnapped earlier by an armed group, the Le Matin newspaper reported.

Militants have been waging a four-year campaign to overthrow the secular government, after it annulled a 1992 general election won by the main Islamic party, the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

# Sudan troops alert against 'incursions from Eritrea'

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A governor in eastern Sudan was quoted Saturday as saying security forces were on alert to counter further incursions by rebels from Eritrea.

Abdul Qasem Mohammad Ibrahim, the governor of Kassala state, told the government daily Al Engaz Al Watani that the alert was necessary "to face any threats that might befall the homeland."

Sudan has repeatedly accused Eritrea of supporting Sudanese rebel groups and allowing its territory to be used as a launching pad for attacks into Sudan. Eritrea severed diplomatic relations with Khartoum two years ago after accusing it of supporting anti-government fighters.

Sudanese authorities last week announced the arrest of

19 military officers and civilians in the Port Sudan area and accused them of plotting assassinations and attacks on vital installations.

The move was reported to be part of a plan to occupy a number of cities in the east to cut the headland off from its main sea outlets.

Sheikh Hassan Tourabi, Sudan's leading Islamic figure and speaker of parliament, has accused Eritrea and Uganda of being behind the recent Port Sudan incident "with the assistance of some traitors."

Sheikh Tourabi is widely believed to be the power behind the government of Omar Al Bashir, who took power in a 1989 military coup. He was elected president earlier this year in balloting that was boycotted by the opposi-

tion.

## Smugglers arrested

Sudanese police have arrested three people trying to smuggle sewing machines and army clothing to Sudanese opposition groups in Eritrea, Al Engaz Al Watani said in a separate report on Saturday. It said the smugglers were caught in Banat in Kassala, on the border with Eritrea, and had confessed they were on their way to the so-called alliance forces which have been undertaking subversive operations on the eastern border.

Authorities in Kassala said opposition forces based in Eritrea have been laying landmines and stealing vehicles and other goods to smuggle them across the border into Eritrea.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
15:05.....Cartoon — The Mask  
15:25.....Mac and Matley  
16:00.....Italian Soccer  
17:00.....News Flash  
17:02.....Science Cartoon  
17:15.....La Vie Devant Moi  
17:30.....Game Show — Pyramid  
18:00 Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part One  
19:00.....Le Journal  
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique  
19:30.....News Headlines  
19:35.....Cinema, Cinema, Cinema  
20:00.....American Chart Show  
20:45 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
21:10.....Black's Magic  
22:00.....News in English  
22:25.....Frenchie  
23:30.....Short Story Cinema — "Partners"  
23:59.....Nelson's Column

## PRAYER TIMES

04:39.....Fajr  
06:01.....(Sunrise) Duha  
12:38.....Dhuhr  
16:16.....'Asr  
19:15.....Maghreb  
20:37.....Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swefieh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN: 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
St. Ann International Church Tel. 652526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 345457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.  
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Relative hot weather conditions will prevail with temperatures above average by 2-3 degrees centigrade and winds northwesterly moderate. On Monday, temperatures are expected to drop becoming around average. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Min/Max temp.

AMMAN: 2234  
Aqaba 2639  
Deserts 1838  
Jordan Valley 2439  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 48 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN: 885446  
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446  
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab 602507  
Dr. Jamal Jbarah 847351  
Dr. Ayman Al Mubtasil 875748  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy 773336  
Al Asena pharmacy 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Najib pharmacy 847632  
IRBID: 250080  
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh 250080  
Al Quds pharmacy (—)  
ZARQA: 589000  
Dr. Youssef Abu Sa'd 589000  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

## EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 651111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

Civil Defence Emergency 630341  
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 617101  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Dept. 630321  
Hotel Complaints 605800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water & Sewage Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
J. Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Co. 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN: 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity 642816  
Alkheil Maternity 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muashar Hospital 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Mubajreen 777101/3  
Al-Bashir 775111/26  
Army, Marika 89161/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50  
Anat Hospital 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199  
ZARQA: 09983332  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983332  
Zarqa National Hospital 09900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09990990  
IRBID: 021275555  
Princess Basma Hospital 021275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital 021272275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital 021247100  
AQABA: 03314111  
Princess Haya Hospital 03314111

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on

phone 08 (52700)

## ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
09:30.....Jeddah (RJ)  
09:55.....Larnaca (RJ)  
10:05.....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
10:10.....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:20.....Beirut (RJ)  
10:50.....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
16:05.....New York (RJ)  
16:55.....Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)  
18:00.....Paris (RJ)  
18:25.....Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:35.....Rome (add) (RJ)  
20:25.....Rome (RJ)  
20:30.....Tunis (RJ)  
20:40.....Vienna (RJ)  
21:10.....Cairo (RJ)  
01:10.....Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)  
05:30.....Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)  
Other Flights  
06:30.....Tel Aviv (LY)  
12:30.....Doha (Q7)  
13:40.....Bahrain (GF)  
15:05.....Moscow (SU)  
16:30.....Dubai (EK)  
20:35.....Cairo (MS)  
21:10.....Beirut (ME)  
22:15.....London, Beirut (BA)  
23:30.....Istanbul (TK)  
23:30.....Athens (OA)  
01:20.....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)  
02:30.....Belgrade (JU)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:50.....Aqaba (RW)  
19:45.....Tel Aviv (RW)

## DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:10.....Madrid (RJ)  
06:35.....Beirut (RJ)  
09:30.....Frankfurt (RJ)  
10:00.....Rome (add) (RJ)  
12:00.....Vienna (RJ)  
12:00.....Tunis (RJ)  
12:15.....Rome (RJ)  
12:15.....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)  
12:30.....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
13:20.....Athens (RJ)  
13:25.....London (RJ)  
19:20.....Dubai, Bangkok, Fukuoka (add) (RJ)  
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21:20.....New Delhi (RJ)  
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21:45.....Damascus (RJ)  
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06:00.....Istanbul (TK)  
07:45.....Beirut, London (BA)

## ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS

10:00 Amman (arriving at Marka Airport from QAIA) (RW)  
20:30.....Aqaba (RW)

## HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman .....8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus .....5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus .....7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman .....5:00 p.m. every Sunday

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple.....700/500  
Banana.....600/600  
Banana (mukhammar) 520/520  
Banana (imported) 850/600  
Carrot.....160/90  
Cauliflower.....400/250  
Cucumber (large) 240/140  
Cucumber (small) 420/250  
Eggplant.....220/150  
Fig.....340/240  
Garlic.....650/400  
Grapes.....400/250  
Lemon.....520/400  
Marrow (large) 250/150  
Marrow (small) 450/300  
Mulukhiyah.....110/70  
Onion (dry).....150/90  
Okra.....800/500  
Pea.....580/400  
Peach.....450/600  
Pepper (hot) 340/200  
Pepper (sweet) 460/260  
Potato.....350/200  
String Bean.....850/600  
Sweet melon 350/200  
Tomato.....130/80  
Water melon 200/140

## ROYAL WINGS (RW) FLIGHTS

10:00 Amman (arriving at Marka Airport from QAIA) (RW)  
20:30.....Aqaba (RW)

## HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman .....8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus .....5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus .....7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
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Tomato.....130/80  
Water melon 200/140

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EXHIBITIONS  
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at the Royal...  
exhibition by Jordanian  
River Design...  
Shoreline...  
8138612, until Aug. 26



## Ministry proposes food monitoring institute

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health completed preparation of a draft law on the establishment of a national food institution to monitor imported and domestically produced food products, Minister of Health Aref Bataineh announced Saturday.

According to the minister, such an institution is essential in order to ensure that food products conform to national safety standards.

The Ministry of Health joined specialists from various universities and professional associations in conjunction with international institutions to prepare the draft law.

Dr. Bataineh confirmed that the chambers of commerce and industry and the Jordanian Society of Food Importers were also consulted in preparing the draft

law.

The draft law will be referred to Parliament for approval, and the minister said that the proposed institution will have partial independence and that the incumbent health minister will serve as chairman of the board of directors.

Responding to a question as to how food production in the Kingdom is currently supervised, Dr. Bataineh said the Ministry of Health monitors the processing of domestically produced food and conducts regular medical examinations on food industry employees.

Concerning comestibles, he added, the ministry tests samples of various imported commodities before introducing them into local commerce.

Dr. Bataineh further explained that the ministry

conducts tests on domestic and imported medicines before authorising their sale.

The minister then cited approximately 81 per cent of the public is covered by public medical services or private health insurance and that the ministry is striving to expand health services to include temporary workers, agricultural labourers, and other members of the public who do not currently benefit from any health plan.

Dr. Bataineh said that Al Bashir Hospital, which served for decades as the sole government hospital in Amman, suffers from a case overload despite staff shifts around the clock.

He said that the ministry is now planning to build the Prince Hamzeh Hospital on the outskirts of Amman and

has consulted with the Prime Minister and a number of international organisations regarding its construction.

The minister also said that next month the Ministry of Health will provide one ambulance to each of 15 health centres and hospitals.

Dr. Bataineh has been involved since last March in constructing a special centre at Tabarbour near Amman to treat toxic dependants.

He said that the 50-bed centre will undergo construction on 125 dunums of land and is expected to cost JD 1.45 million.

The centre has an estimated timetable of 18 months to completion.

## TCC looks into lowering rates

By Christina Schlegel  
Special to Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) is looking into the feasibility of lowering its rates for local and international calls.

Walid Dweik, Director-General of the TCC told the Jordan Times Saturday that the corporation is working on such a study but that a final decision to reduce

charges must "be confirmed by the Cabinet."

Upon the study's completion, which is scheduled to be finished in the coming weeks, according to Mr. Dweik, it will be handed over directly to the Cabinet for a prompt decision, as the corporation would plan to put the proposed rates into effect on Oct. 1, 1996.

The TCC's suggestion to lower its fees comes as a reaction to the fierce competition in the telecommunications market.

"Being threatened by the so-called 'call-back' system, which is offered illegally by foreign companies, we are forced to decrease our tariffs in order to compete," Mr. Dweik added.

Using a 'call-back' service one has to pay a predetermined amount in advance and secure a card with a code number. The customer then calls a number in the United States and is connected through an operator to the requested destination number abroad.

As the rates for such calls are by far lower than those charged by the TCC, the state-owned corporation tried to stop those practices in December last year by blocking access from Jordan to all numbers starting with 88 in North America. But its blocking attempts were incomplete.

## Jordan-Syria Land Transport Company records profit of JD1.9m in 1995

AMMAN (Petra) — The Director-General of the Jordan-Syria Land Transport Company (JSLTC) Hamdi Habashneh Saturday announced that the company realised a net gain of JD1.9 million in profits in 1995 from operations of its truck fleet and yet put forth a series of suggestions to improve production in the coming years.

In a conference at company headquarters in Amman, attended by Minister of Transportation Naser Lawzi, Mr. Habashneh proposed that internal regulations be re-examined and modernised and that new trucks be purchased to boost the company's transportation capacity.

Fifty new trucks will be added to the company's 362 truck fleet and the plans are being implemented in conformity with that of an annual blueprint set by the company's board of directors, Mr. Habashneh explained.

He further explicated that the majority of the company's work is in transportation of cement



Minister of Transportation Naser Lawzi tours the Jordan-Syria Land Transport Company (JSLTC) (Petra photo)

from Jordan to Syria and cereals from Syria to Jordan, adding that there are 740 employees from the two countries.

The company, which was established in 1975, conducts workshops in

Jordan and Syria, carries out plans for the manufacture of trailers for the trucks that the load capacity might be augmented, and has established a large area in Al Qastal south of Amman designated as a parking lot for the company's trucks.

Mr. Lawzi inspected the company programmes and workshops and was informed that the 90 trailers were built by local workers last year.

ated as a parking lot for the company's trucks.

Mr. Lawzi inspected the company programmes and workshops and was informed that the 90 trailers were built by local workers last year.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### University acceptances to be released

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy President of University of Jordan Walid Ma'ani Monday will present the lists of students who have been accepted to the country's state universities for the new academic year 1996-1997 at a press conference at the Registration Department of the University of Jordan.

### Ministry appoints new teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Saturday announced the names of 1,217 newly appointed teachers who will work at ministry schools throughout the Kingdom. The new teachers have been selected to teach various subjects including: Islamic religion, Arabic, English, mathematics, general science, physics, chemistry, biology, history, education, geometry, computer science, music, geography and arts.

### ACC to accept credit applications

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) Saturday asked all its branches in the Kingdom to accept credit applications, according to ACC Director General Mohammad Arabiyat. Mr. Arabiyat said applicants for ACC loans should be unemployed, have no private business, and qualify as low-income. The ACC, he said, will finance cattle breeding, bee-keeping, poultry, and field agriculture projects.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### LECTURE

\* "Western Conception of Exotic Middle Eastern Phenomena" by Dr. Jamal Hussein at Arabi Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian artist Khalil Al Kofabi entitled "From Jordan... Man and Changing Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre until Aug. 28.  
\* "A Summer Souvenir" exhibition by Jordan River Designs, Adil Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 513981/2), until Aug. 25.

## JIEC plans to build new industrial estates

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Saturday announced that it has begun the second stage of an expansion project scheduled to end in 2000 with the aim of purchasing lands to establish additional industrial estates.

A total of JD 1.64 million has already been allotted for the purchase of land in Aqaba, Karak and Salt.

JIEC Director General Asem Hindawi stated that plans are to acquire 2,000 dunums from the Aqaba Region Authority at the cost of JD 400,000. In Karak a 1,856-dunum plot has been purchased at the cost of JD 281,283 and 50 dunums has been bought in Salt at the cost of JD 142,000, all dedicated to the establishment of like industrial estates.

Mr. Hindawi spoke of JIEC plans to purchase more land for other industrial estates slated for construction in Mafraq, Tafleh, Jerash, Zarqa and Ajloun to accommodate additional factories and businesses.

He said the JIEC is further planning to expand Al Hassan Industrial City which was built in 1991 and will purchase neighbouring property estimated at 500 dunums for that purpose.

This will effectively double its present area, a necessary action as all the buildings in the city are currently occupied, Mr. Hindawi elucidated.

He said that the Sahab Industrial Estate, near Amman established in the late 70s, has run out of

space and therefore JIEC plans are under way for buying 128 dunums of adjacent land.

According to Mr. Hindawi, a minimum of JD 58 million will be needed between 1996 and 2000 to establish an appropriate infrastructure including electricity, plumbing, telephone installation, and sewer systems and to construct facilities to house factories.

He said that the JIEC board resolved to establish a permanent exhibition at the Sahab Industrial Estate to display samples of manufactured goods as well as set up a central laboratory to serve the needs of the various enterprises located therein.

## Celebrating the ordinary: experiments with space, time and people

By Mahmoud I. Mufti  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Dr. Hani Hourani's pictures do not attempt to dramatise the dreary, but to celebrate the ordinary. Whereas most photographers would be content to limit themselves to either colour or black and white photography — talent being a limiting factor — Dr. Hourani tackles both disciplines with incredible sensitivity to the potential and to the limitations of each. Invariably some are more evocative than others, in both categories, but none can be said to be bland. In fact, this artist approaches the subject matter in a manner of artistic intimacy which is immediately communicated to the viewer, imparting the sense, allegorically speaking, that these are "hand-made" photographs rather than "machine-rolled", much in the same way as a master craftsman patiently applies his skill to perfect his violin. It may be his hundredth, but it is crafted with the same loving meticulous care as his first.

Similarly, Dr. Hourani's success in his exhibited photos — also numerous — lies not in the way he addresses the many variables of credible photography, such as light, focus, etc., but in the way his photographs are infused with a sense of history and documentary prowess. He achieves this by not only choosing interesting subject matter, but also by interestingly choosing his angle of shooting, the time of day, and even the non-pinnable notion of "mood." Because this is exceedingly hard to achieve at any level, some of his works speak out to the viewer more vividly, even passionately, than others.

And as if the challenge of understanding and harnessing the subtleties of both black and white and colour format is not amply insurmountable, the artist takes on the additional challenge of diversifying his choice of subject-matter into three major areas: People going about their daily lives, urban architecture, and landscapes (each of which can engage a photographer for an entire lifetime).

The effect of all this diversity is dazzling. In planning to visit this exhibit, and if you are a reflective, historically sentimental person, dedicate at least an entire hour for this visual and documentary feast. One needs at least that long to be guided, by means of the works' powerful evocations, through the hilltops and characterful streets of

*"There appears to be a comeback in our culture towards viewing society holistically. In the old days, there was a much greater incidence of people delving into academia, the sciences, poetry, music, and the arts."*

Amman and Salt, to the even tighter, rustic, cobblestoned alleyways of Jerusalem and its plethora of minarets and church spires. Beirut comes next, with some aerial depictions of the coastal bays in the fog. We are later corrected and told that these are taken from atop the Carlton Hotel, and not from the air.

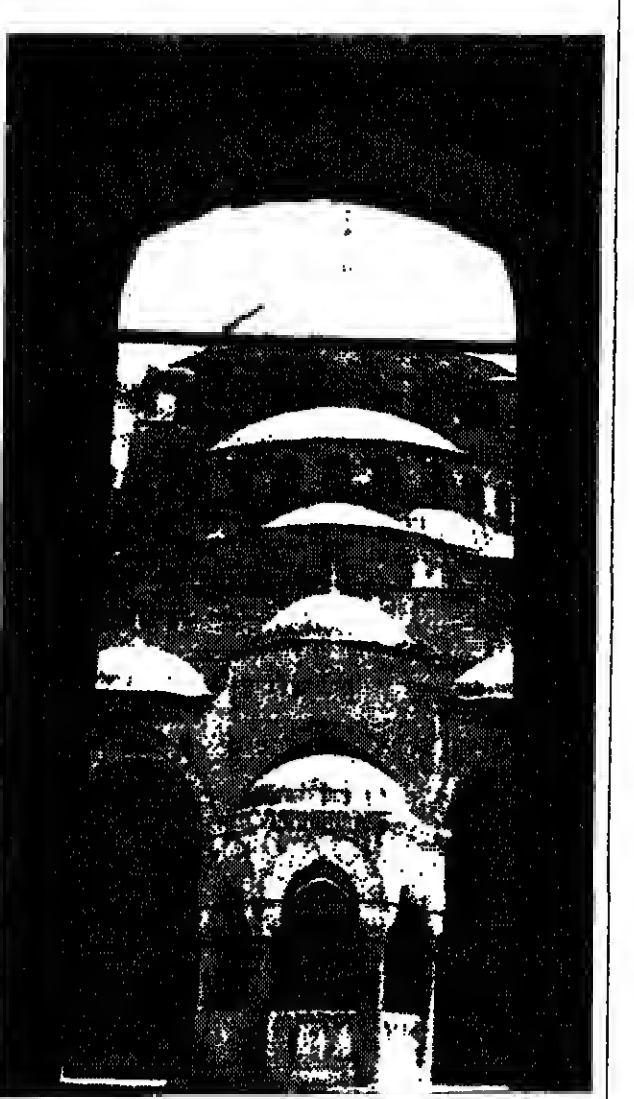
as well as others depicting luscious gardens (including various shots of an artist's back garden ... collaged walls and all).

Many of the works here make the viewer feel as if he/she would really like to be there. The coffee shop at Kan Zaman, for instance, is one such place: The sun, filtering through the loosely-woven reed ceiling of the enclosure, creates an elaborate embroidery of shades and shadows on the rough stone floor, mirroring the fibrous matrix above. The atmosphere is one of a tranquil spring morning, well before the arrival of the first luncheon-sniffers. Only several waiters in the extreme horizon of the walled cafe are apparent. But in one corner, one is able to discern a stack of "argeelehs" (one-metre-high traditional Arab-Turkish water pipes). In the diffused sun, and with the protective wind-blocker metal caps atop each one, they altogether look like small Roman Legionaries with

spit-polished pewter helmets.

However, it is the photographs which combine both people and their urban settings, in this writer's opinion, that are most vividly able to touch the viewer. Two pictures hung horizontally next to each other recount one of the most typical tales of urban life: the "argeeleh ritual." Wafting in the smoke of the argeeleh's "tumbac," (a pungent blend of ), three young men sit back and relax in an outdoor frescoed corner of a Damascus cafe on a Friday morning before noon prayers. The atmosphere is overwhelmingly one of total equilibrium with the physical surroundings; a metal-grated window and palm trees and a mosque painted on the wall just behind them. (hence the allusion to the frescoes).

While there is an assumed sense of camaraderie among argeeleh-smokers gathered together, the characters in the photograph seem content to just sit there and contemplate life, (though one of them looks as if he is truly better off not contemplating his own life). Details aside, however, what Dr. Hourani has achieved in this shot (and others involving people in urban street settings), is to capture a particular genre of mood; one that is far from contrived. It is a mood that enables one to see how true these characters are to themselves and to feel that the scenario is not one where these people simply "fit" and "fade away" into the background. Rather, it is a case where they are the principal players in the frame; the artistic reference point; the aesthetic anchor. Accordingly, the background finds itself in need to "keep up," as it were, with the atmos-



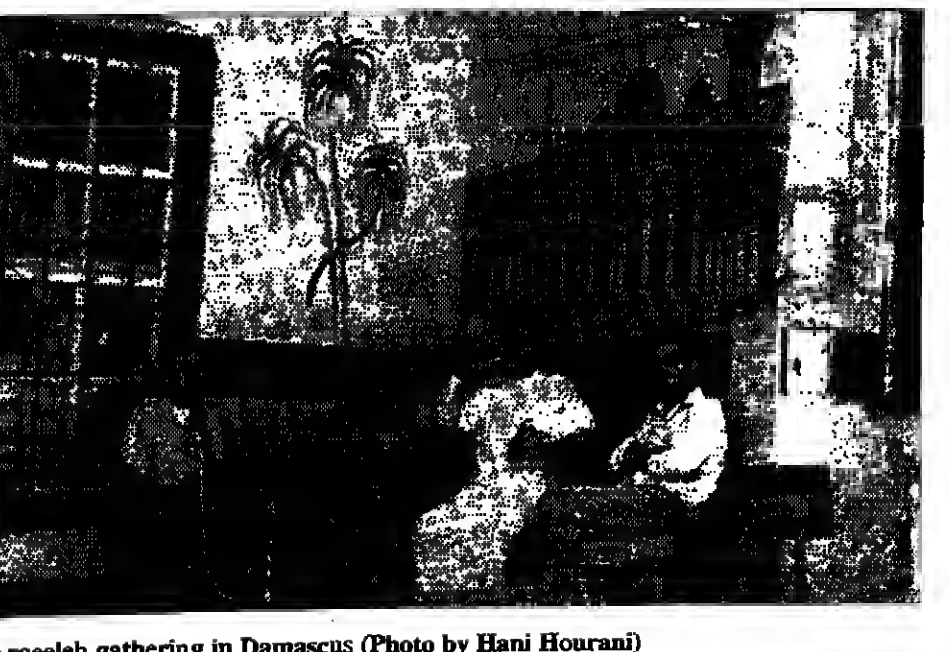
Sultan Ahmet Mosque — Istanbul (photo by Hani Hourani)

phere of authenticity generated by the characters.

Commenting on what most viewers and fellow photographers would most likely describe as an "over-thematic" approach to a photography exhibition, the artist says: "There appears to be a comeback in our culture towards viewing society holistically. In the old days, there was a much greater incidence of people delving into academia, the sciences, poetry, music, and the arts. This has the advantage — pro-

viding the talent is there — to view the world and society from different angles and from different binoculars."

Dr. Hourani's talents extend to research and academia. He heads the Al Urdun Al Jadeed Centre (The 'New Jordan' Centre). He and his wife, Suad Issawi Hourani, are also the owners and directors of the Baladna Gallery in Wasfi Tel Street. The exhibition runs until the evening of August 26.



Argeeleh gathering in Damascus (Photo by Hani Hourani)







The Russian Interior Ministry, the Ministry for Emergency Situations, the Federal Security Service, the Federal Border Guard Service and a number of others all command troops, tallying more than those in the army and navy.

"There are several parallel armies in the country," Mr. Rodionov said. "They consume a growing amount of resources and often fail to carry out their duties. Here is the source of saving state funds."

**KIGALI (R)** — Zaire has expelled 28 Rwandan Hutus from refugee camps in eastern Zaire and Rwandan authorities immediately jailed 17 of them, a spokesman for Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated army said Saturday.

The refugees — described as "prisoners" by the spokesman — were banded over Friday, a day after Zairean Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo said on a visit to Rwanda that his country would expel all refugees back to Rwanda. He gave no timeframe.

Rwandan army spokesman Captain Firmin Gatera told Reuters in Kigali that 17 of the 28 refugees banded over from the Zairean town of Goma had been soldiers in the former Hutu army which fled to Zaire in 1994 after being defeated by Tutsi forces in Rwanda's civil war.

"These people are now in Gisenyi Prison," Gatera added. He said the Zairean authorities had accused them of being "trouble-makers" in the teeming refugee camps in eastern Zaire.

Zaire is home to 1.1 million Rwandan Hutu refugees who fled three months of civil war in 1994. Many had taken part in the genocide that year of one million people, mostly Tutsis, and refuse to go home for fear of reprisal at the hands of the new Tutsi-dominated government in Kigali.

Tens of thousands of genocide suspects, mostly Hutus, are languishing inside Rwandan jails.

clear since the 1992 campaign that led him to the White House that he revels in popular culture.

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Jordan Times advertising department.

## Development requires peace

ONE OF the areas that has been hit hard by the election of the hardline Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is the prospect of economic cooperation in the Middle East. Mr. Netanyahu's predecessor, Shimon Peres, pushed forward the idea of a Middle East that is linked by railways and super highways where Israeli technology, Turkish water and Arab labour and finance would turn the region into a Garden of Eden.

The idea was hoisted by the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summits that were held in Casablanca in 1994 and in Amman in 1995. During the Amman conference, which was attended by U.S., European, Israeli and Arab delegates, with the exception of Syria and Lebanon, a number of institutions were created to ensure progress in this direction. Chief among those institutions is the Middle East Development Bank that would be based in Cairo, the venue of this year's third MENA summit.

Statements coming out of Cairo these days speak of Egyptian reluctance to host the conference. Cairo says there is very little sense in holding the summit if there was no progress in the peace negotiations and if some countries boycotted the gathering.

Egypt is right. There is not much hope for the summit to succeed if some progress on the stalled tracks of the peace process between Israel on the one hand and Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians on the other is not achieved.

Israel has thus far been reluctant to put into effect the economic agreements that it signed with Jordan and the Palestinians. It still closes its borders to Palestinian labour while it imports 200,000 workers from outside the region. Furthermore, Syria and Lebanon should become major partners in the integrated economic market of the Middle East if the ground project is ever to see the light of the day, especially if Turkish workers are to be drawn southwards to Israel and Jordan.

We hope, however, that some progress will be achieved before November to make the holding of the MENA summit possible. Mr. Netanyahu should realise that the Middle East cannot develop fast enough unless all countries of the region work together. But most importantly, he should realise this can never happen before a comprehensive political settlement that guarantees the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese their full rights.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDAN HAS more than 100,000 archaeological sites which can by no means be guarded against thieves by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' 250 guards, said Ghassan Abdul Khaleq, a writer for Al Ra'i. There are thousands of merchants abroad interested in acquiring artefacts from Jordan, but the Jordanian government can do nothing against their buying Jordanian antiquities coming their way, he said. The government, he said, can impose the maximum penalty on those who trade in artefacts dug up illegally in Jordan by people whose main objective is to find a buyer for them abroad. He said that persons who steal Jordan's treasures commit a crime against the whole nation for the sake of making personal fortunes and not out of want to buy food. The writer voiced support for the recent minister of tourism's statement that stricter laws will be applied against thefts of this nature, but he said the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' capabilities should be enhanced so that it can protect the nation's patrimony and cultural wealth.

THE ARABS can enjoy no real peace or achieve what they call "national security" as long as they remain weak and impotent vis-a-vis Israel and its formidable arsenal of conventional and nuclear weapons, said Taher Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour. The Arab countries must acquire all means that ensure self-defence and they are particularly in need of missiles which they can use to protect their lands, their water resources and their economic installations, said the writer. He said the Arabs need sophisticated weapons because Israel rejects the idea of peace, refuses to pull out from the occupied Arab lands and continues to build Jewish settlements on Arab territories. No national security can be achieved while the American forces continue to have easy access to any of the Arab countries in the Gulf and as long as the United States openly declares itself to be a strategic ally of Israel, providing it with economic and military power to perpetuate its occupation of the Arab lands, continued the writer. The recent reports about American-Israeli cooperation in the production of long-range missiles, said the writer, should sound the alarm in the Arab countries which must seek sophisticated missiles of all kind to ensure the desired national security.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# 1988 a turnaround in economic policy orientation

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

FOR TWENTY years until 1988, certain economic policies were adopted by all Jordanian governments, and were, at the time, taken for granted as being proper and wise. Those policies led the country in a dead street and finally proved to be a sure recipe for bankruptcy. We needed a major crisis in 1988 to radically reconsider our economic policy and shift its orientation 180 degrees to adopt brand new policies, which could right the wrong, remove distortions, and put us on the right track.

Economic policies of the past can be summarised under six main themes:

First, the building of a large and dominating public sector, which was in charge of the whole economic life. Public sector virtually reduced the Jordanian people into employees working for the state. This state of affairs was compatible with our authoritarian system of government in particular, and the totalitarian regimes in the region around us in general.

Second, the heavy dependence on foreign aid which started as British aid in return for controlling the army. America replaced Britain as a source of financial aid immediately after the Jordanian-British treaty was abolished in 1956. American aid continued to flow until 1967, when Arab Gulf states took over the responsibility of funding the Jordanian budget in the extent of 40 per cent, if not more.

Third, the extensive dependency of the Treasury on external and internal borrowing. So much so that Jordan became the No. 1 country, most heavily ridden by debt, relative to the size of its economy. External debt reached 200 per cent of Gross Domestic Product in 1989. Debt service grew beyond the capacity of the Jordanian economy to service, and the bubble burst in October 1988.

Fourth, the direct governmental intervention in decision-making including imports, exports, pricing, and investing. Profits or losses of private enterprises, and their success or failure, depended to a great extent on government decisions rather than their efficiency and competitiveness in the market place.

Fifth, general subsidies were extended across the board to cover a wide range of commodities and services including fuel, meat, milk, bread, fodder, water, electricity etc. The purpose was to buy loyalties and keep opposition at bay.

Sixth, living way beyond the means of the country and its resources. The per capita private consumption in 1980 was 90 per cent higher than it is now, thanks to high population growth, higher prices, and economic adjustment.

We don't need to condemn those old policies and orientations, because their disastrous outcome speaks for itself. The present policies which were grudgingly embraced in 1989 represent the International Monetary Fund econom-

ic adjustment programme.

In a nutshell they call for controlling the aggregate demand, reducing the fiscal deficit in the central government budget, which was a good indicator of financial dependency on, and exposure to external factors, reducing the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments to bring about a balance between receipts and payments of foreign exchange, liberalising the economy to follow the signals of the market, shifting emphasis from import substitution to export-led growth, removing distortions which were entrenched in the economy and preventing the efficient allocation of resources, opening up to the global market, achieving higher economic growth rates, restoring the stability of the Jordanian dinar exchange rate, and building safety nets to give the adjustment a human face and protect the weak groups of the society who cannot survive competition.

The declining trend of the Jordanian economy in the 1980s under the old economic policies, and the turmoil that followed, gave way to stability and started an upward trend as of 1992.

Although the outdated policies proved to be a failure, yet they still have some adherers and supporters with high voices. They pose as defenders of the people's best interests, while in reality they count among the obstacles and impediments in the way of social and economic progress.

## The real threat of Iranian terrorism

Although they pose little risk to Western targets on Western soil, the activities of Iranian extremists are driving a wedge between the U.S. and Europe, writes Nicholas Bethell

IRAN IS the fountain of all terrorism, at least this was the word from Washington in the wake of the TWA disaster, violence in Bahrain and the explosion at Al Khobar in Saudi Arabia. Press leaks from the U.S. administration, some of them inspired by secretary of defence, William Perry, on his return from the Gulf, give the impression that the ayatollahs have upped the terrorist stakes and are now embarked on a new policy of mass murder throughout the Western world.

Strong American feelings about Iran date back to their expulsion from the country in 1979-80 and the hostage crisis, when the United States was humiliated, its foreign service most of all. Several key State Department officials from that wretched year, including Warren Christopher and Tony Lake, are in even more powerful positions today. There is a presidential election and Mr. Clinton, it is expected, to "do something" against "Iran, which has few friends among those who will be voting in November.

Recently American officials have had to backtrack, at the same time analysing what Iranian terrorism actually is. What do these violent men of Islam do? What are their targets? Are they escalating their campaign?

Western experts agree that whereas Iran is undoubtedly among the world's worst terrorist nations, it is not yet in the business of attacking Western targets on American or European territory. Recent events offer no good reason why this analysis should be varied.

Their most blatant behaviour is reserved for action against individual Iranian dissidents. Twelve have been murdered in Europe so far this year, most of them members of the left-wing Mujahedeen Khalq violent opposition movement, others of them former high officials from the Shah's regime. Iran admits nothing, but it sees itself as entitled to kill Mujahedeen members. They are, after all, funded by the great enemy, Baghdad, and they carry out acts of violence inside Iran in pursuit of their declared aim, the overthrow of the Islamic republic.

Some days ago, I asked Iran's deputy foreign minister, Javad Zarif, why his government had named a nearby street after the hunger striker Bobby Sands, so giving the impression that Iran supports the Irish Republican Army. He replied: "It is because you in Britain give safe haven to terrorists from the Mujahedeen, who kill our people. Men from your House of Commons and House of Lords receive them and speak up for them."

The Iranian charge d'affaires in London, Gholamreza Ansari, says: "A large and unbelievable number of innocent civilian people, including a president and a prime minister, MPs and ministers, have been killed by the Mujahedeen in Iran." Iran's director of prisons, Assadullah Lajavadi, told me: "These communists come into our country and kill maybe 50 of our people. Should we leave them alone to kill another 50? They deserve to be executed."

I am sure that Mr. Lajavadi meant that such people should be executed outside Iran as

well as inside it. And he would see countries like Britain, France, and Germany, which allow the Mujahedeen to operate politically, as their accomplices. He would think of Iran as a victim of terrorism rather than as a perpetrator.

However, it is not only the violent who are killed by Iranian agents. Two such men are today in prison in France, convicted of having cut the throat of the Shah's last prime minister, Shapour Bakhtiar, in Paris in August 1991. In Germany there is a warrant out for the arrest of Iran's minister for intelligence, for allegedly bombing a dissident group in Berlin in 1994. British officials believe that in recent years, 40 dissidents, by no means all of them violent, have been killed in Europe by the Iranian secret police, and others in Turkey and Iraq.

In spite of the overwhelming evidence available to Western experts on the Bakhtiar case and others, the Iranian government refuses to admit that it has ever acted violently outside its own borders. "Show me your proof," said Mahmoud Vaezi, Iran's minister for relations with Europe and America, when I put the Bakhtiar case to him. "These are no more than rumours dreamt up by our enemies in Iraq, or by Israel." But he knew, I think, that I did not believe him.

In one particular case Iran has been ready to act against a Western target. This is the matter of Salman Rushdie. But Iran today would like the Rushdie issue to be forgotten. The chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on Foreign Policy, Mohammad Larajani, says: "Iran has dissociated itself from the fatwa. There will be no Iranian hit squads trying to carry out the death sentence. These assurances ought to be enough for you, but Britain wants more. Britain demands that we sign a paper that amounts to an admission of guilt. This is unacceptable."

Again, Dr. Larajani was being less than candid. An Iranian religious foundation known as "15th Khordad" still offers a \$2m bounty to anyone who kills the British writer. This is an incitement to murder that Iran does nothing to silence.

Iran's protestation that its government cannot interfere in the finances of a private body does not impress the British side. Meanwhile, there are still, probably, Iranian agents keen to carry out what Ayatollah Khomeini ordered.

Another area of violence where Iran is active involves terrorism against Israel. British officials believe that Iranian agents were responsible for the bomb explosion and consequent loss of life at the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires last year. Iran also, by its own admission, helps the Hizbollah movement in Lebanon, which fires rockets into Israeli territory. Iran will not concede that this amounts to complicity in

terrorism.

Dr. Zarif says: "Hizbollah has elected members in the Lebanese parliament and it is not easy to call them terrorists just because they oppose the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. We help Hizbollah with food and medicines." Again, he is not telling the full truth.

A third category of Iranian terrorism involves the Persian Gulf area, especially Bahrain, where there is Shiite majority and where Iran has been closely engaged for many decades. British experts are convinced that, some at least, of the recent violence in Bahrain is Iran's work, to the extent that some of those involved were trained in Iranian camps in subversive techniques and provided with equipment and money.

Yet even here, Iran admits nothing and tries to justify a strong political stance. Mr. Vaezi says: "Why does the West emphasise Iran's human rights problems? Kuwait has no valid parliament at all. Neither does Bahrain. In Saudi Arabia, a woman cannot drive a car and Christian worship is forbidden. Yet you never criticise these countries. You only attack Iran. You are very selective." Inevitably one is brought back to the Al Khobar bomb and the alarming reports emerging from Washington sources these past days. The difference between TWA and Al Khobar is that, whereas there is no evidence at all to link Iran with the TWA outrage, any more than there is with the World Trade Centre or Oklahoma or Atlanta explosions, there are some circumstantial features of the Saudi Arabian bombing that give rise to suspicion.

American experts are now no longer jumping to conclusions, but they are worried by how skilfully and effectively the Al Khobar operation was carried out. They doubt whether Saudi Arabian dissidents on their own would be capable of such a spectacular achievement against a tough American target. They sense foreign involvement and they know how deeply Iran resents the American military presence in Saudi Arabia.

They also detect in Iranian press reports of the explosion the same triumphalism as followed the bombing of the U.S. Marine base in Beirut in 1984. The Iranian media is taking pains to remind Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states that the death of American Marines in 1984 was followed by American withdrawal from Lebanon, with dire consequences for America's friends in that country. American analysts, while agreeing that the evidence against Iran in this matter remains circumstantial, see this as a very threatening message.

The experts do not, therefore, blame Iran for purely and Western outrages, although they are sure of Iranian guilt in the three categories of terrorism mentioned above.

For instance, they hold Libya, not Iran, responsible for the Lockerbie disaster. Even though Iran has an apparent motive for revenge — the accidental destruction of an Iranian airliner by an American missile — Iran's name is not in the frame over Lockerbie. The evidence assembled by the Scottish police, which cannot yet be made public, points clearly to the two named Libyan assassins.

British officials nevertheless remain suspicious of Iranian intentions in the Rushdie case and they believe that Iran has the ability to attack more Western targets in the West, if their policies should change. Men are being trained in Iran for this eventuality and they can be activated if the West increases its pressure. Also an aggressive posture towards Europe and North America remains one of the characteristics of the Islamic revolution. And although many in Iran would like this to change and more practical policies to prevail, there is nothing yet to suggest that Mr. Rafsanjani and his clerical rulers will allow such a change of policy, or that the technologists will be able to overrule the men of religious principle.

One of the most serious consequences for the Western world is that divisions now arise between Europe and the U.S. This was shown most vividly in April 1995 when the American company Conoco was awarded a \$600m contract for an Iranian gas project. The U.S. administration stepped in to prevent Conoco from concluding the deal, only to see it picked up by the French company CFP Totale.

An American official says: "The Europeans really irritate us over Iran. We make sacrifices in an effort to tackle a problem that threatens the security of us all, only to see our allies making profits out of what we have voluntarily given up. It is all very well for Europe to engage in 'critical dialogue'. We would do the same. We do not want to start a war. But if dialogue fails and terrorism continues, one must be prepared to exert pressure. Europe is not doing this."

The European Union, on the other hand, is conscious of the great export potential of Iran. It sees the Iranian issue as illustrating American foreign policy at its most clumsy, with an administration keen to demonstrate its machismo in the run-up to an election, indulging in frothy press releases and unreliable briefings which it then has to retract, and then proceeds to try to enforce American law outside American territory.

Iran, therefore, is happy to continue its carefully planned scale of terrorism, avoiding Western targets but using violent means in many other parts of the world. From the point of view of the mullahs, this policy has several merits. It is cautious enough to prevent the U.S. from being so angered that they launch an armed response. At the same time, it is bold enough to keep the fervour of Islamic revolution alive, to infuriate the entire Western world and to create divisions between Europe and North America — *The Independent*.

## Erbakan gives Islamist spin to diplomacy

By Jonathan Lyons  
Reuter

ISTANBUL — Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has used his first overseas trip, to Iran and mainly Muslim Asian states, to give the pursuit of basic Turkish interests a gloss of Islamist solidarity. The result is a new look Turkish foreign policy but no real threat — as feared in Western capitals — to Ankara's close economic and political ties to its NATO allies. The trip also marked Ankara's first real foray into the Pacific rim.

Analysts say headlines about a clash with Washington over a \$23 billion gas deal with Iran and dreams of an "Islamic Airbus" consortium have distracted attention from the traditional economic and political goals of Mr. Erbakan's 10-day tour.

At the same time, they say, the visit to four Muslim states — plus Singapore — has given Turkey's first Islamist prime minister a boost with his Welfare Party faithful, unnerved by recent concessions to Western demands.

"The natural gas deal is important for Turkey," said Dogu Ergil, a leading expert on relations with the Middle East.

"There is nothing ideological about it. Turkey is facing an energy crisis," Mr. Ergil told Reuters, noting that big financial and technical obstacles remained before the project could be realised.

"This deal was in the works for a long time," said Ilmur Cevik, editor of the Turkish daily news and a confidant of the prime minister.

"It was not Erbakan but the former (secularist) energy minister who warned of an energy crisis. It has nothing to do with Islam," said Mr. Cevik, who accompanied the prime minister.

Western analysts largely agree.

"There are good, sound economic reasons why the Iran gas deal should be signed, but going there first and making it a theme of the whole trip shows a change of emphasis," said one NATO diplomat.

Washington, a close ally, rebuked Turkey for the gas supply deal signed one week after enactment of a U.S. law to penalise companies investing in energy projects in Libya or Iran. The White House cites both countries as sponsors of terrorism.

However, U.S. condemnation has been tempered by sympathy for Turkey's growing energy shortfalls.

Turkey consumes nearly nine billion cubic metres (318 billion cubic feet) of gas a year, almost all imported from Russia. The

Iranian deal would supply an initial three billion cubic metres (106 billion cubic feet) from 1999.

Energy ministry projections show Turkey will produce about 93 billion kilowatt hours (kwh) of power this year, with consumption set at 97.5 billion kwh. The shortage will be bridged for now by electric power imports from neighbouring Iran and elsewhere.

"What could be more natural than us getting such cheap, abundant natural gas from right next door?" Mr. Erbakan told reporters on his return.

Likewise, Mr. Erbakan played the Islamist card in a bid to increase trade and improve security in what Turkish officials like to refer to as "a rough neighbourhood".

Aides say he made the gas deal contingent on Iran's curtailing support for the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is waging a bloody insurgency against Turkish forces. "He was very blunt, very tough," said one participant.

Asian tigers Malaysia and Indonesia were given pride of place on the itinerary to underscore their success in blending Western-style development with traditional Islamic values.

Officials say Mr. Erbakan signed export trade deals worth up to \$4.5 billion, providing a stimulus to the troubled economy.

Among the deals were accords with Pakistan to begin joint projects in defence and production of transport aircraft. Turkey will also export heavy farm equipment.

Turkey and Malaysia agreed to cooperate in aviation and the manufacture of armoured combat vehicles, frigates and submarines, while Turkey and Indonesia agreed aviation deals of their own. Few details have so far emerged.

Whatever the economic benefits, Mr. Erbakan won renewed goodwill from his Islamist constituents, some of whom feared he had made too many concessions to the West since taking office in June.

These included dropping his opposition to the U.S.-led air force patrolling northern Iraq from Turkish base and abandoning efforts to scrap a military training deal with Israel that angered Muslims at home and abroad.

"Welcome back great leader," said Milli Gazet, the Welfare Party daily. "You have fulfilled the responsibility of fraternity on us all by visiting approximately 500 million Muslims."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Turkish delegation in Baghdad**  
BAGHDAD (AFP) — A delegation representing the Turkish pharmaceutical industry has arrived here ahead of the easing of U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, officials said Saturday. In a statement, the Turkish embassy here said the 56-member delegation representing 26 companies was scheduled to meet Iraqi Health Minister Omid Medhat Mubarak and display their wares at a trade fair. The visit is aimed at securing contracts and boosting bilateral relations between Turkey and Iraq, strained following the Gulf war but improving in the wake of the election of Turkey's pro-Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

**Egypt urges U.K. to ban conference**  
CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has urged the British government to prevent the holding of an international Islamic conference next month in London, a police source said on Saturday. "The Egyptian authorities have asked British officials to stop the holding of the conference of terrorist leaders on Sept. 8 in London," said the source. "Cairo asked the British embassy not to give visas to Egyptian Islamists who are asking for them to go to London to take part in this meeting," he added. "Egypt and several Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, have let the British authorities know of their deep concern over the holding of this conference which will bring together 14,000 members of fundamentalist groups," the source said.

**Iranian party-goers to be lashed**  
TEHRAN (AFP) — Twenty-five young Iranians have been arrested and sentenced to 10 lashes of the whip for attending a "depraved" dance party in Tehran, the newspaper Keyhan reported Saturday. Police arrested 28 boys and girls between the ages of 17 and 20 years old at the dance party Thursday night in an apartment in the Velenjak district of the capital, the newspaper said. Twenty-five of the party-goers were sentenced to be whipped 10 times while three boys were jailed, it said. The owner of the apartment was fined 500,000 riyals (\$120). Police, acting on a tipoff from local residents, also seized music and video-cassettes from the apartment, the newspaper said. Dancing between men and women is frowned upon in the Islamic republic and pop music, while not formally banned, is viewed with suspicion by the religious authorities.

**Top Egyptian journalist dies**  
CAIRO (AP) — Ahmad Bahaddin, a prominent Egyptian journalist and author, died Saturday in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria. He was 69. Bahaddin, a native of Alexandria, died of heart failure, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said. He had suffered a stroke in 1989 and was treated in London, but he has been in poor health in recent years, the agency said. After graduating from law school in Cairo, Bahaddin worked as a lawyer in the state prosecutor's office in the 1950s but later resigned and sought a career in journalism. He rose to become editor of several weeklies, including Rose Al Youssef magazine, and the state-run daily Al Ahran. He served as head of the Egyptian press syndicate and

**Tunisian party ousted from HQ**  
TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's main opposition party on Saturday announced that it had been ousted from its headquarters building by a court decision for failing to pay the rent. Mohammad Ali Khalfallah, spokesman for the Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS) said that a bailiff who was accompanied by policemen, on Saturday ordered the party to leave the building. "We were not allowed a delay to enable us to transfer the movement's goods and documents," Mr. Khalfallah added in a statement. The building is state property.

**Clinton regains strong lead**  
NEW YORK (AFP) — President Bill Clinton has regained a significant lead, outpacing his Republican rival Bob Dole by seven points in a Newsweek poll released Saturday. The survey showed the Democratic president getting 47 per cent, Mr. Dole 40 per cent and Texas billionaire Ross Perot of the Reform Party, seven per cent. One week ago, a Newsweek poll carried out shortly after Mr. Dole formally accepted his party's nomination as a presidential candidate had Mr. Clinton's lead narrowing to two percentage points, from 20 a week before that.

**Sudan residents stage protest**  
CAIRO (AFP) — Authorities were bunting down student demonstrators in Sudan after dispersing protests by other residents against water shortages and lengthy power outages, the Sudanese opposition said Saturday. Protests broke out in Omdurman, sister city of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, Friday night and Saturday morning after two weeks of water shortages and electricity cuts, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) said in a statement received here by AFP.

**Yilmaz reelected party leader**  
ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's main opposition Motherland Party on Saturday overcame a narrow margin to elect Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz as its leader at a party congress here. Mr. Yilmaz received 1,032 votes from 1,202 party delegates, while his only rival Isin Celebi, a former economy minister, managed a mere 170. "We will work hard all together to bring Motherland back to power," Mr. Yilmaz told delegates of the conservative party.

**Algeria drafts new election law**  
PARIS (R) — Algeria's presidency and opposition parties have drawn up an election law to introduce proportional representation instead of the two round majority system that brought Islamists close to power five years ago and violence when the vote was cancelled. "Twenty-nine political parties and presidency's representatives unanimously agreed on the new text of the election law after nine days of debate," an opposition party spokesman involved in preparing the draft said on Saturday. Political parties and government representatives earlier this week also drafted a law that would ban Islamists parties.

Sustainability of development by means of ecological management

By Walter Rüdell

After 24 years, since the publication of the Club of Rome's Limits of Growth, a slow momentum is forming, with the notion that our traditional conception of economics, based on the concept of continuing, ever-increasing growth, has no future, as natural resources are overtaxed, air, soil and water are becoming ever more contaminated while health hazards along with decreased food supply have become evident.

In order to function satisfactorily for all life forms, the earth must be in balance with all biotic and abiotic forces. But after 200 years of environmental exploitation, and as Colin Tudge put it in Time Before History, "Our political and economic institutions and philosophies are out of sync with the biological and physical realities of the planet."

One country, the United States of America, from 1890-1990, a mere century, consumed more natural resources than all mankind throughout known history.

Abuse of nature ultimately leads to stress and collapse, and the cracks in our presumptuous human edifice are showing dramatically: Global warming and climate change, ozone depletion, an increase in ultra-violet radiation, population explosion, forest depletion, stagnation in basic food production, appearance of unknown diseases and reappearance of old ones, an increase in poverty and natural catastrophes; and all this is happening while natural resources and financial means are becoming scarce.

Now mankind is faced with its failed experiment of exploiting, controlling and dominating nature. "The party is over, the finishing post is in sight."

If man desires to master the situation, he must devise new systems, both economic and political, and he has to approach the coming century with radically different motivations. Let's trash the old notion of Man as being the measure of everything, the master of the universe, the godlike creator and dominator.

We are enjoined to humbly accept our role as part of nature and partner to all other creatures. We are simply part of them, though presumably the most capable, and this may enable us to cope successfully with what lies ahead.

The first decades of the twenty-first century will be decisive for the sustainability of our civilisation. Sustainability has become a

focus point in all political and development discussion. But without change, no sustainability can exist.

According to the Meadows computer models in "Beyond the Limits" only if we reduce population growth, practise an ecological economy, and use our technological skills for fighting synthetic emissions and further erosion of soils, will we thus manage to preserve our resources, only then will environmental pollution decrease, industrial output continue in sustainable measure, food production be assured for a slowly stabilising world population, and thus life expectancy and per capita shares of consumer goods, food and services will continue without decline into the twenty-second century.

If on the other hand, we neither change nor adjust we will be almost certainly led to decline, chaos and total collapse, beginning in 2020, twenty five years from today, and reaching disastrous levels by 2100.

Everyone in a leadership position knows this, but nothing serious nor broadly implemented is, heretofore, being done to bring about necessary change.

Why? The answer is equally acknowledged: Our present political and economic systems do not respond to the need of nature, but to the needs and aspirations of human beings only, they are aiming towards "the great good," the "Californian lifestyles," and this in spite of knowing that these are illusory objectives, only within the grasp of small minorities of elites.

Our environmental problems are man-made, they are the result of our scientific, industrial civilisation. It has performed admirably, but without calculation of the many side-effects, risks and long-term impacts on man and nature. Now that we are learning increasingly about these undesirable effects, we must make an effort to contain them.

Will we succeed? Certainly — if we address them sincerely and with the same will-power and energy mankind showed in bringing its civilisation to the crisis-zone, this is the threshold to which we are now crossing, step by step.

To be successful, science, economics and politics must act together. But politics must provide legal grounds and incentives, as well as global coordination of action.

We need primarily what is now being called "global governance." It implies that all nations cooperate

responsibly and with accountability on national, regional and global levels to resolve problems which nation-states alone can no longer solve.

If we consider the United Nations as not having fully succeeded, it would imply a reform of the United Nations System, the establishment of respected international courts, including an environmental court, with power of correction and instruments of law enforcement, it means to abandon the widely symbolic representation of governments in the U.N. bodies in favour of responsible, law-abiding representation. And we also may need a second U.N.-chamber of NGO-representatives. We need to change "soft laws" into "hard laws," as signatures, promises and ethical vows have not worked satisfactorily.

Let us be realistic: There will be no global governance, no "one-world," no new "global ethics" if nation-states do not yield, in certain fields and under certain conditions, parts of their sovereignty. And the environment is one of these special fields as environmental threats, degradation and catastrophes don't recognise national borders.

Easier than in the political arena, change may come in economic fields. Scientists and economists are usually more creative, more innovative, more daring.

The transition from our "industrial" economy to an "ecological" economy is already in the making, though still within a certain avant-garde only, and with small and hesitant steps.

The turn-over in "Environmental Technology" will in 1996 reach \$426 billion. Not much. And the greater part, 74 per cent, is in services, 20 per cent in low technology and only 6 per cent in high technology. But the annual growth rate in this sector is 7.5 per cent.

What is demanded is a switch from control, remediation and clean-up technologies to preventive, waste-minimisation and energy-saving technologies. We need a completely new environmental technology, design-based on broad application of science to the entire production process; we need new ways to make products that waste less, that run more cleanly which last longer, and which, at the end, are recycled and reintroduced into the production process.

This means life-cycle planning of goods, and it can only be achieved by introducing a new way of economic thinking: We need ecological management.

Whereas the majority of economic enterprises merely comply with the minimal environmental requirements and legal obligations, more trying to avoid than to fulfill ecological norms, there are already hundreds and possibly thousands of companies which have integrated environmental considerations at the highest level of management and decision-making. The future will be in favour of green and clean technologies, as people start changing their consumption patterns, and as the notion spreads amongst producers and consumers, "that a product only is of high quality if it was produced according to ecological standards and if its use and disposal don't harm the environment." And in the future only products which comply with these ecological standards will be admitted to international trade.

Equally the off-practised "systems of national accounts," the GNP's (gross national product), no longer reflect accurate measurements of economic performance. The depletion of national resources, the degradation of the environment and the enormously high costs of nature-rehabilitation are not entering the balance sheets; these costs are ignored and put into the accounts of future generations. In contrast, the defensive environmental costs of repairing and remediation are entering the GNP's as assets, whereas, in fact, they are unredeemable expenses.

Considering these, unaccounted and uncovered costs, economic growth in most countries does not result in reducing shortages, increasing well-being and wealth for the potentially greatest amount of people.

The way out of this dilemma is through an economic policy of sustainability, the core of which comprises a strictly environmental resources management within the production processes, a radically new technology design based on less material input, less energy use, longevity and recycling, as well as concentration on pollution prevention technologies, instead of the costly and harming "end of the pipe" technologies, which are still effected globally.

Future economic well-being is only possible, within sustainable margins, by applying a new system of national accounting in which nature and environment are given proper consideration and an environmental accounting is made



Walter Rüdell

part of the economic balance-sheets.

If you kill the hen, no more eggs — a well-known truth. But nature is unique and irreplaceable. If mankind goes on depleting, polluting and destroying nature, the material resources-basis of economic performance will be exhausted. Consequently, what is bad for the environment is also bad for the economy. Economists and politicians have to consider this truth.

Equally all should recognise that an environmental economy and further economic growth can go very well together. Momentum is forming that new jobs and high growth rates in the coming century will occur only in the environmental economic sector.

If we keep such an ecological economy growing we will also contain other environmental problems, including the most pressing ones: Further population growth, poverty and climate change. Economic prosperity leads to full integration of women, in all sectors of educational, professional and political life, and thus it favours the demographic transition: Population numbers will stabilise and slowly decline.

Somehow it was our human-centric philosophy and growth-obsessed economy which dragged us into the morass in which we now find ourselves. We have confidence that by making the right adjustments and changes, our intellectual prowess and our economic strength will propel us out again.

The writer is the representative of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Jordan and Lebanon. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times to coincide with an international conference on "Eco-management in Industry and Trade" which will be held in Amman next month.

Army quits Karak; curfew is lifted

(Continued from page 1)

after Friday (Aug. 23) passed without incident except a peaceful demonstration demanding a reversal of the government's decision to increase the prices of bread and rechannel subsidies through a direct cash compensation system.

The situation in the south was contained and brought under control after His Majesty King Hussein held a series of meetings with senior leaders, political and tribal, as well as parliamentarians from the region.

Slogans heard during Friday's demonstration in Karak indicated that residents were still demanding the scrapping of the increase in the price of bread.

King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdul Karim

Kabariti have firmly rejected any reversal of the decision, which is part of the economic restructuring programme that Jordan is implementing in coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Without the increases, Jordan would have been found to have faulted in its implementation of the restructuring programme. That would have led to serious difficulties for Jordan to handle its foreign debts and continue to receive international assistance to bridge its balance of payments deficit.

However, the King has hinted that other measures such as a wage increase to help the people was under consideration, but that any discussion on such issues could come only after complete normalcy has been restored throughout the Kingdom.

The riots in Karak on Aug. 16 led to an immediate decision by the King to terminate an extraordinary session of Parliament, which was supposed to have discussed several key legislation, including draft laws on the Jordan Press Association, the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and the Jordan News Agency (Petra) and amendments to the Passports and Nationalities Law, the Civil Status Law, the Social Security Corporation Law and a law on universities, among others.

It was the second time in seven years that riots broke out in the south. In early 1989, residents of Karak and other southern towns rioted against an increase in the price of fuel, also under the economic restructuring programme.

Some detainees freed; party members held

(Continued from page 1)

arrested from their homes. It did not give a date for the arrests.

The Ansar Party said its secretary-general, Mohammad Faisal Majali, was arrested on Friday.

Officials have said that those who simply took part in the demonstrations in the south would not be prosecuted but those who incited violence and participated in the rampage against public and private property would be prosecuted.

Two journalists of Al Bilad weekly, chief editor

Khaled Khasasbeh and reporter Taha Abu Reden, remained in detention on charges of "inciting sectarianism and dissension" under article 150 of the penal code by carrying "misleading and inaccurate" reports in the weekly. They were arrested on Sunday and are being held without bail for 15 days.

Also held was Rakan Saideh, who was arrested one day after the other two were detained. Mr. Saideh faces charges of "publishing reports that contradict national responsibility and respect for truth and incite

violence and instigate crimes and sowing the seeds of hatred" under articles 8, 9 and 40 of the Press and Publications Law. He could be also charged with "inciting sectarianism and instigating conflict" under article 150 of the penal code.

The nature of charges against Mr. Tawara, the weekly's publisher, Mr. Hussein, reportedly an active supporter of the Jordan Arab Baath Party, and Mr. Rantissi of Al Ahali was not immediately known.

Iraqi diplomat asked to leave

(Continued from page 1)

status of a former "administrative clerk" at the embassy, Abbas Ali Hassan, who is no longer working for the mission. The embassy had, however, filed an application for the renewal of his residence permit in May.

"The Ministry of Interior has turned down the application and Mr. Hassan's residence permit will not be renewed," said the source. Mr. Hassan worked for the embassy for one year before he left the mission in May.

The Jordanian action on the diplomatic level was coupled with an announcement by the Ministry of Higher Education that it was refusing scholarships for Jordanian students to study in Iraq. The objective, sources explained, was to reduce the number of Jordanians living in Iraq. Unofficial estimates have put the number of Jordanian students in Iraq at between 4,000 and 4,500.

Informed sources also said that the manager of the Iraqi Rafidain Bank, Abdul Wahab Al Dalaeen, a Jordanian national, was arrested on charges that he had financed sabotage attempts in last week's riots in the south.

Assad restates commitment

(Continued from page 12)

and Gaza, the seat of the Palestinians' self-rule authority.

Japan's interest in Middle East politics was highlighted in February when it sent a military contingent to serve with the 1,000-strong United Nations Disengagement Observation Force on the Golan Heights. It was the first time that Japanese troops have taken in peacekeeping missions in the Middle East.

Mr. Ikeda visited the Japanese soldiers at the Golan Heights on Friday.

"Japan is aiming to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the Middle East," said a Japanese official accompanying the foreign minister.

King

(Continued from page 1)

The information minister said the government was fully committed to implementing the economic restructuring programme and the rechannelled form of subsidy introduced along with the increase in the prices of bread and fodder announced two weeks ago.

A ministerial committee is charged with ensuring the fair distribution of cash compensation in place of subsidy for bread, he said, adding that the compensation would reach all citizens in a few days.

The Ministry of Supply will set up direct phone lines for the public to address their complaints, he added.

Dr. Muasher said that Saturday's Cabinet session also discussed Jordan's information policy and particularly the Press and Publications Law, amendments will be introduced to the 1993 law to allow more press freedoms while also "raising the ceiling of responsibility," he said.

The King chaired part of the Cabinet session, which was earlier presided over by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti. Accompanying the King were Prince Royal Highnesses Prince Hamzeh and Prince Hasbun. Earlier in the day, Mr. Kabariti met with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srouf

and emphasised the need for continued cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities in order to pursue the implementation of the economic reform programme.

Mr. Kabariti said that the government remains committed to the contents of its policy statement to Parliament upon its inception.

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The President and members of the association are pleased to salute and welcome in Jordan  
**H.E. Mr. Yukihiro Ikeda**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs in Japan  
and to wish him a happy stay and successful visit. Japan's concerted efforts in supporting Jordan's economic progress, and encouraging the peace process are highly appreciated and acknowledged.  
The association stands for closer and deeper mutual appreciation and cooperation between Jordan and Japan.



## Netanyahu targets illegal foreign workers in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's government Friday considered for the first time ways to cut a growing dependence on foreign workers who have taken jobs which are off-limits to Palestinians and unwanted by Jews.

"We will act to reduce drastically the presence of illegal foreign workers as well as cut the scope of foreign labourers who enter the country with a permit," a cabinet statement quoted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as saying.

The communique said the cabinet would take a "practical decision" next week.

"We will propose expelling about 1,000 illegal foreign labourers from Israel a month," Labour and Welfare Minister Eli Shai told Israel radio before Friday's debate.

But Mr. Shai's plan was no blueprint for a mass exodus from Israel of workers from countries such as Romania, Thailand, Turkey and China who now do the low-paying manual labour of Palestinians barred from the Jewish state for security reasons.

It would take authorities more than eight years to expel all of the 100,000 foreigners he said were working in Israel without a permit — assuming police could round all of them up and no new illegal labourers slipped into the country.

Mr. Shai said another 100,000 foreigners had

valid work papers. "There is a problem here. (hiring foreigners) pays — it is good for building contractors... We may have to keep a quota of foreign workers. The question is how many," Mr. Shai said.

Many Israelis initially welcomed the blue-collar foreign influx at the height of the six-year-long Palestinian uprising that began in 1987, during the course of which Arabs knifed Jews in Israeli cities.

But while Israeli law required Palestinian workers to return to their homes in the occupied territories each evening, foreigners remain overnight in squalid housing.

"Go look at the old central bus station area (in Tel Aviv). It has all the things you see in the Bronx," legislator Ran Cohen told the radio, comparing the foreign workers' slum area to the New York borough known for poverty and crime.

Mr. Cohen called for the establishment of "transit camps" to hold illegal immigrants for several days before expulsion, a proposal which his left-wing Meretz Party colleague Amnon Rubinstein said would hurt Israel's image.

"It won't be a concentration camp," Mr. Cohen snapped.

The cabinet communique quoted Mr. Netanyahu as saying that while "strong

action" was needed to stop foreign workers staying in Israel illegally, "we are talking about human beings and therefore must treat them accordingly".

Israel's Channel Two television showed Thursday six Turkish workers locked in a shack on an Israeli farm by their employer, apparently over a financial dispute.

"It is just like a ghetto," said an incredulous police officer at the scene.

Nigerians cleaning apartments, Thais picking flowers in greenhouses, Chinese building workers and Filipina nannies have become permanent fixtures in the Jewish state.

The Palestinian National Authority has demanded Israel allow more of its people in to work, saying an Israeli closure had crippled the economy in the self-ruled areas.

Before the Palestinian uprising, as many as 160,000 Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza worked in Israel.

Israel sealed off the territories and stopped Palestinians from entering in February after the first in a series of suicide bombings that killed 59 people — including seven Romanian workers. Today some 30,000 Palestinians work in Israel.

## Middle East/North Africa Partners Fund will be launched shortly

By George S. Hishmeh  
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The Middle East/North Africa Partners Fund, which is planning to make equity investments of \$250 million in new and expanding businesses in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and the Palestinian self-rule areas, is expected to be launched before the upcoming Cairo economic summit in November.

"We are looking for a first close in late October or early November," according to Mona Aboelnaga, a vice-president at Siguler Guff & Company, the New York-based manager of the fund.

Ms. Aboelnaga, who was on her way to Cairo to attend an investment conference next week, added, "We have started looking at companies we are interested in" but she would not release any names.

Ms. Aboelnaga, an Egyptian-American who manages the fund's portfolio, revealed that her MDBO-MDMM firm, formerly the private equity arm of Paine Webber's Mitchell Hutchins Institutional Investors, has raised to date about \$140 million. "We will be up and running before the (Cairo) summit," she said.

Ms. Aboelnaga seemed confident that the remaining amount — \$110 million — would be raised shortly after the three-day Cairo summit scheduled to start on November 12.

The Overseas Private Invest-

ment Corporation (OPIC), an independent U.S. government agency, is providing an investment guaranty to support the privately capitalised and privately managed fund.

The New York firm will manage the fund with local advisors serving in each of the five areas. The local advisors are Investments & Securities Group (Egypt), Casablanca Finance Group (Morocco), TunInvest Finance Group (Tunisia), and the Cairo Amman Bank (Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza).

Of the \$250 million, \$50 million will be co-managed by Illinois-based Grove Financial Services, Inc. to target investments in Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza.

Ms. Aboelnaga said that 51 per cent of the investors must be Americans while the remainder could be non-Americans including Arab financiers.

According to a fact sheet issued by OPIC, "the fund will invest in companies that have business relationships with U.S. companies and will pursue investments that will use products and equipment manufactured in the United States and/or employ the services of American firms."

OPIC said examples of the sectors in which the fund could make investments are consumer products, high technology, pharmaceutical, telecommunications and financial services.

"By providing capital to new and expanding business and

supporting privatisation in the Middle East and North Africa," the OPIC fact sheet added, "the fund expects to expand the private sector which will improve business efficiency and create employment opportunities for local citizens."

According to Ms. Aboelnaga, 25 per cent of the fund is "pure equity" and the remainder are bonds which OPIC will guarantee. The fund will be paying investors 0.75 per cent above U.S. treasury bonds, now yielding about 7 per cent.

The MENA Partners are so-called because they are in fact four funds, each with a term of ten years, which may be extended for up to two additional one-year periods, if necessary "to facilitate an orderly exit out of investments."

The funds have four initial target capitalisations: Egyptian

Partners (\$100 million), Tunisia Partners (\$50 million), Morocco Partners (\$50) and Jordan/Palestine Partners (\$50).

According to Siguler Guff & Company, the four funds are seeking commitments from accredited investors for \$250 million of units consisting of \$62.5 million of Limited Partnership interests and \$187.5 million of notes. The investors will subscribe pro rata across all the four funds based on initial target capitalisations.

Payment of principal and interest on the notes, a fact sheet from the managers said, will be "irrevocably guaranteed" by OPIC. In other words, it explained investors in the "units" are thereby assured of receiving a return of at least 75 per cent of their invested capital plus interest.

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 25 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,  
Astrologer, Carroll  
Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You feel both annoyed and unhappy today, so don't manipulate others or make any drastic moves you may regret in the days ahead by such an attitude. Later this evening will be good for you to get some project completed.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) You feel tied down to old conditions today and you want to make drastic changes which are not wise, so calm down and contemplate some new course of action. This evening will provide you with some much deserved relaxation.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Some personal ambitions have been yours for some time and suddenly today and you want to drift off to something else which you feel will be more prosperous and profitable, however, you should reconsider this action before proceeding.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) It would be wise to stay at home today and avoid difficulties which could be present and wait until another day which will be more beneficial. Enjoy your loved ones more later this evening and he happy in their company.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is not a day today to make changes or go off on a trip which you would later regret. Be leery of new contacts later this evening with ideas for your progress since they are only looking out for themselves.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You could easily be too demanding with your mate or a good close friend today, so use caution to avoid estrangement. Later this evening you can have some fun recreational activities with your loved ones.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) A fellow associate could be too demanding today, so turn a deaf ear, however, say nothing which is disruptive and you can avoid a disagreement with this individual. Tonight you can stay at home with your loved ones and relax for the coming week.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Don't disagree about career activities you want to get away from today and simply vacate yourself, since others are demanding and want you to take over the responsibility all by yourself. Tonight you can complete some new project.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You feel you want a different type of recreation today, however, be careful it is not too expensive or you could find yourself in the situation of not having sufficient funds for your everyday necessities of life.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) If you are annoyed today, don't show it at home or a big disagreement could ensue between yourself and a loved one which could have serious repercussions. Take a health treatment and feel better for the days ahead.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Be most careful in motion today while on the highway and avoid a possible accident which you would rather not get involved with at this time. Try not to be too critical of others or you could get on their bad side.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Be careful not to take on any heavy responsibilities today which could cause you much loss in not only business but financial matters. Make the evening happy by spending it with your loved ones at home and simply relax.

**Birthstone of August:**  
Peridot — Golden Quartz

## Clinton signs law to reform welfare

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Even as President Bill Clinton signed a law to partially dismantle a 1930s-era social safety net, the White House tried to avert political damage within his Democratic Party with counter-measures for the poor.

"Today we are ending welfare as we know it," Mr. Clinton said at a signing ceremony at the White House Rose Garden, recalling his oft-cited 1992 campaign promise.

Mr. Clinton was flanked by Democratic and Republican lawmakers and former welfare recipients as he signed a law that drastically

revamps a social assistance programme that ends the 61-year-old federal welfare "entitlement" for the poor.

In response to criticism from his allies over the measure, Mr. Clinton conceded that the legislation was "far from perfect but it has come a very long way."

Mr. Clinton had vetoed two previous welfare reforms as too extreme. The previous bills "failed to protect our children and did too little to move people from welfare to work," Mr. Clinton said.

The new law, however, includes provisions that the Clinton administration opposes such as deep cuts

in nutritional programmes and a drastic reduction in benefits for legal immigrants.

"We strongly disagree with a couple of provisions of this bill (but) we can change what's wrong," he said.

The president said that despite the shortcomings of the law, it will recreate "the nation's social bargain with the poor."

Many Democrats are not convinced.

The measure has sparked vociferous opposition from the Democratic Party's liberal wing, including women's groups and advocates of child protection.

Republicans, meanwhile, were trying to take credit from the measure away from Mr. Clinton, noting the president had vetoed two earlier welfare-reform bills.

While liberal voters are not likely to chastise Mr. Clinton with a vote for Mr. Dole — whose party sponsored the welfare reform bill — they could hurt the president's reelection bid by staying home.

But Thomas Mann, an expert on the presidency at the Brookings Institution, said the welfare bill is "popular in the country as a whole," and analysts routinely describe Mr. Clinton's decision to sign it as a net positive in pure political terms.

Mr. Clinton seems to have preferred to anger his liberal allies rather than alienate moderate voters and give Mr. Dole new ammunition

against him.

The law ends federal cash assistance to needy families, places a five-year lifetime cap on aid for most people, and requires able-bodied recipients go to work within two years, to keep receiving the help.

The law also trims nutrition allotments, or "food stamps," and slashes benefits for most non-citizens.

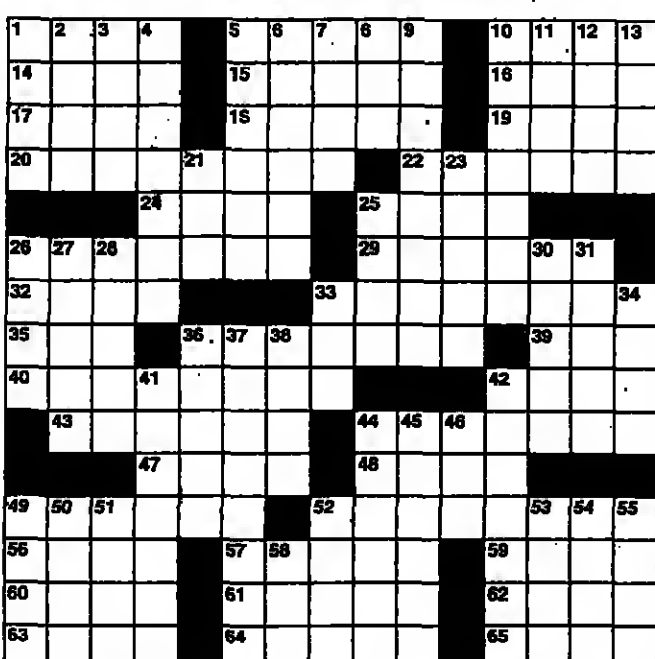
But already, the administration is taking steps to soften the blow to the poor, giving some states permission to by-pass some of the law's toughest provisions and plans to launch a programme of tax initiatives for inner-city businesses to promote job creation for the poverty-stricken urban areas.

More than 12 million Americans currently receive federal welfare assistance.

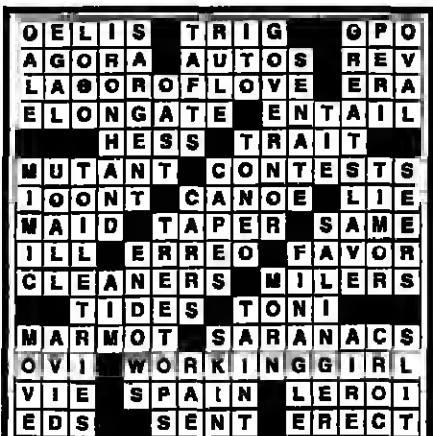
### THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

#### ACROSS

- 1 Hot tubs
- 5 Las Vegas main street
- 10 Hourglass filling
- 14 Word on a doof
- 15 Instant
- 16 "Now — me down to sleep"
- 17 Song from Placido
- 18 Leader
- 19 Alaskan city
- 20 Marie to Mantle
- 22 In a chair
- 24 Trail
- 25 Dad's sister
- 26 Asian temples
- 29 Indian fabric
- 32 Dairy case choice
- 33 Vacation home
- 35 Reason for overtime
- 36 — glass
- 39 "— Maria"
- 40 Meetings
- 42 Forehead
- 43 Necessary
- 44 Lifetime pursuit
- 47 Refuse
- 48 Spoken
- 49 Fleet of warships
- 52 Like an amoeba?
- 56 Castle defense
- 57 Reputation
- 59 Heavenly hat?
- 60 Adlike tool
- 61 Fernando or Lorenzo
- 62 Ellipse
- 63 Obey
- 64 Perfume
- 65 Cucumber, e.g.



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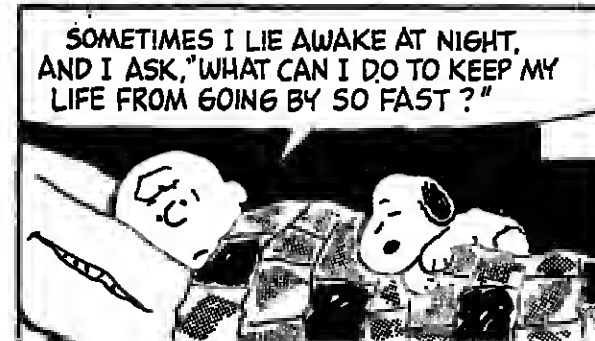
- #### DOWN
- 1 Tif
  - 2 Immaculate
  - 3 Europe's neighbor
  - 4 Beauty parlor item
  - 5 Layers
  - 6 "We hold these —"

- 7 Annoy
- 8 Rink surface
- 9 Talk into
- 10 Of Blue Eyes
- 11 Thanks —
- 12 Point out
- 13 Colored
- 21 Furious
- 23 Concluded
- 25 Despot Idi —
- 26 Kitchen items
- 27 Sigourney Weaver movie
- 28 Barnyard honkers
- 30 Cognizant
- 31 Taste
- 33 That guy's
- 34 Evergreen shrubs
- 36 Took up one's cause
- 37 Pedicure targets
- 38 Opie's dad
- 41 Calmed, in a way

- 42 Hotel lobby figure
- 44 "—s Bluff" (film)
- 45 Collar
- 46 Battering —
- 49 Oriental nanny

- 50 Traveled
- 51 Labyrinth
- 52 Notoriety
- 53 Roof overhang
- 54 Sharp blow
- 55 Fly alone
- 58 Unknown guy

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff





Last October, Saudi Ara-

"No figures are given but one can infer that Saudia has negative cashflow, hence the continuous support of the government," said one analyst adding

"Saudi Arabia is strategically located, it is the site of

He said he expected the domestic Saudi market, where the airline has a monopoly, to open to competition in 10-15 years.

**Only 45 women are in key administrative posts in civil service**

The secretary-general criticised the evaluation process at some institutions and noted that at one ministry, 87 per cent of the employees received the "excellent" mark in their annual performance assessments (Al Ra'i).

**\*\* THE MAJORITY** of Amman Bank for Investment (ABI) shareholders have demanded a halt to the deal being worked out by the Central Bank to sell ABI to the Arab Bank. At a meeting Wednesday night, 10,310 ABI shareholders accounting for 73 per cent of the ownership, a committee was formed to torpedo the proposed sale. The small shareholders who are being kept in the dark over the details of the deal, entrusted the committee to write to the Central Bank governor demanding clarifications of the issue and a meeting of the ABI general assembly. The shareholders were concerned about the delay in publishing the 1995 balance

During the meeting, the shareholders demanded to know the reason for the bank's collapse and those who were responsible for that. They requested an inquiry and wondered why the Central Bank did not act in the early stages to support ABI. Finally, the shareholders demanded that they be given full account of the situation to safeguard their investments and interests (AI R4'1).

## Major Currencies &amp; Cross Rates Prices as at ..... 24/08/96 19:

Major Currencies & Cross Rates					Prices as at ..... 24/08/96 19:54				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLE	FRF
US Dollar		1.4785	0.5425	1.1930	1.3703	1.509.47	1.6565	5.0525	
DE Mark	0.6764		0.4343	0.8068	73.21	0.9235	1020.60	1.1203	3.1487
GB Sterling	1.5585	1.5565		1.8643	188.38	1.2128	2345.49	2.5763	7.9642
CH Franc	0.8382	123.88	0.5381	-	80.71	1.1481	1264.74	128.83	4.2333
JP Yen	0.0092	1.3852	0.5930	1.1016	-	1.2653	13.94	152.95	4.8663
CA Dollar	0.7298	1.0848	0.4655	0.8774	1.27	-	1104.75	1.2175	0.6957
IT Lira	0.0007	0.5792	0.4254	0.0790	1398.26	0.9078	-	10.87	3.3463
NL Guilder	0.6603	99.23	0.4576	7.201	65.30	0.2707	910.97	-	3.0482
FR Franc	0.1978	0.2926	0.1271	23.6087	21.40	0.2712	32.78	32.7800	-

Energy			Mid-East Currencies					
Oil	Last	Previous	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	21.35	21.75	SA Riyal	0.2866	0.3944	0.17131	0.31223	28.6787
W. Texas	22.15	22.40	AE Dirham	0.2724	0.40284	0.17499	0.32508	29.4977
Bony	21.35	21.75	KW Oinar	3.3417	4.94315	2.14684	3.98843	381.925
Dubai	18.38	18.40	BH Oinar	0.3770	3.92311	1.70418	3.18556	287.274
UL Gas	206.00	208.00	CY Pound	2.1738	3.2114	1.3581	2.5933	235.514

Main Equity Indices							
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Ch
New York	DOW JONES	5722.74	-10.73	-0.18	5735.02	5700.92	5733.47
New York	S&P 500	857.03	-3.85	-0.54	870.83	864.93	870.68
London	FT-SE 100	0	0	0	0	0	3907.5
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	21228.5	-134.44	-0.63	21388	21188.2	21363.2
Paris	CAC 10	2020.82	3.06	0.15	2022.52	2008.43	2017.76
Frankfurt	DAX	2558.18	-2.1	-0.08	2561.75	2555.08	2557.26

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## Out-of-sorts Newcastle crash 2-1 at home against Wednesday

LONDON (R) — Newcastle's early season teething problems continued Saturday when they lost 2-1 at home to Premier League pacemakers Sheffield Wednesday.

England striker Alan Shearer gave Kevin Keegan's talent-laden side the lead from the penalty spot after 13 minutes after Wednesday's Yugoslav Dejan Stefanovic pulled down Colomian forward Faustino Asprilla.

But two minutes later Wednesday equalised through Peter Atherton, who found space in the penalty area to meet Mark Pembroke's free kick with a precise glancing header.

Guy Whittingham stole three points for the Yorkshire side with a goal 10 minutes from time.

To add to Newcastle's misery, England striker Les Ferdinand was stretched off in the second half.

Wednesday, who escaped relegation on the final day of last season, have now won their first three games of the season.

Elsewhere, title hopefuls Liverpool were held 0-0 at home by newly-promoted Sunderland, and in London, the tie between Tottenham

Hotspur and Everton also ended goalless.

Frenchman Frank Leboeuf and Italian Gianluca Vialli scored their first Premier League goals as Chelsea beat Coventry 2-0, and managerless Arsenal won by the same scoreline at Leicester.

Last season's league and cup winners Manchester United host 1995 champions Blackburn Sunday. Newcastle, who beat Wimbledon 2-0 in midweek, had the better of the first half at St. James' Park, with Asprilla in sparkling form.

But the defensive frailties which cost them the title last season were again apparent and Wednesday's buoyant forwards were given plenty of space in front of goal.

Fielding new Dutch signing Orlando Trustful, David Pleat's side were organised at the back and dangerous on the break, and twice came close to scoring through trainee Richie Humphreys, looking for his third goal in as many matches.

The clash looked to be heading for a draw when Whittingham snatched the winner to the anguish of the

majority of the 36,000-strong crowd.

Newcastle, who have spent in excess of £60 million (\$93 million) in building their side over the past four years, have now lost two of their first three league games and were hammered 4-0 by Manchester United in the Charity Shield.

Last year they lost out to United in the race for the title after squandering a 12-point lead in the last five months of the season.

Wednesday, who beat League Cup holders Aston Villa and Yorkshire rivals Leeds in their first two outings, head the fledgling Premier League table on nine points from Ruud Gullit's Chelsea on seven.

Chelsea, packed full of European imports this season, took the lead against Coventry in controversial style when the referee failed to spot an apparent handball by midfielder Dan Petrescu.

The Romanian ignored the protests from the visiting defenders, took off down the wing and crossed for Leboeuf to head home.

The Coventry players continued to complain and defender Liam Daish, who had already been booked for

a late challenge, was sent off for dissent.

Middlesbrough came away with a 1-1 draw from Nottingham Forest thanks to a goal made and executed by their Brazilians.

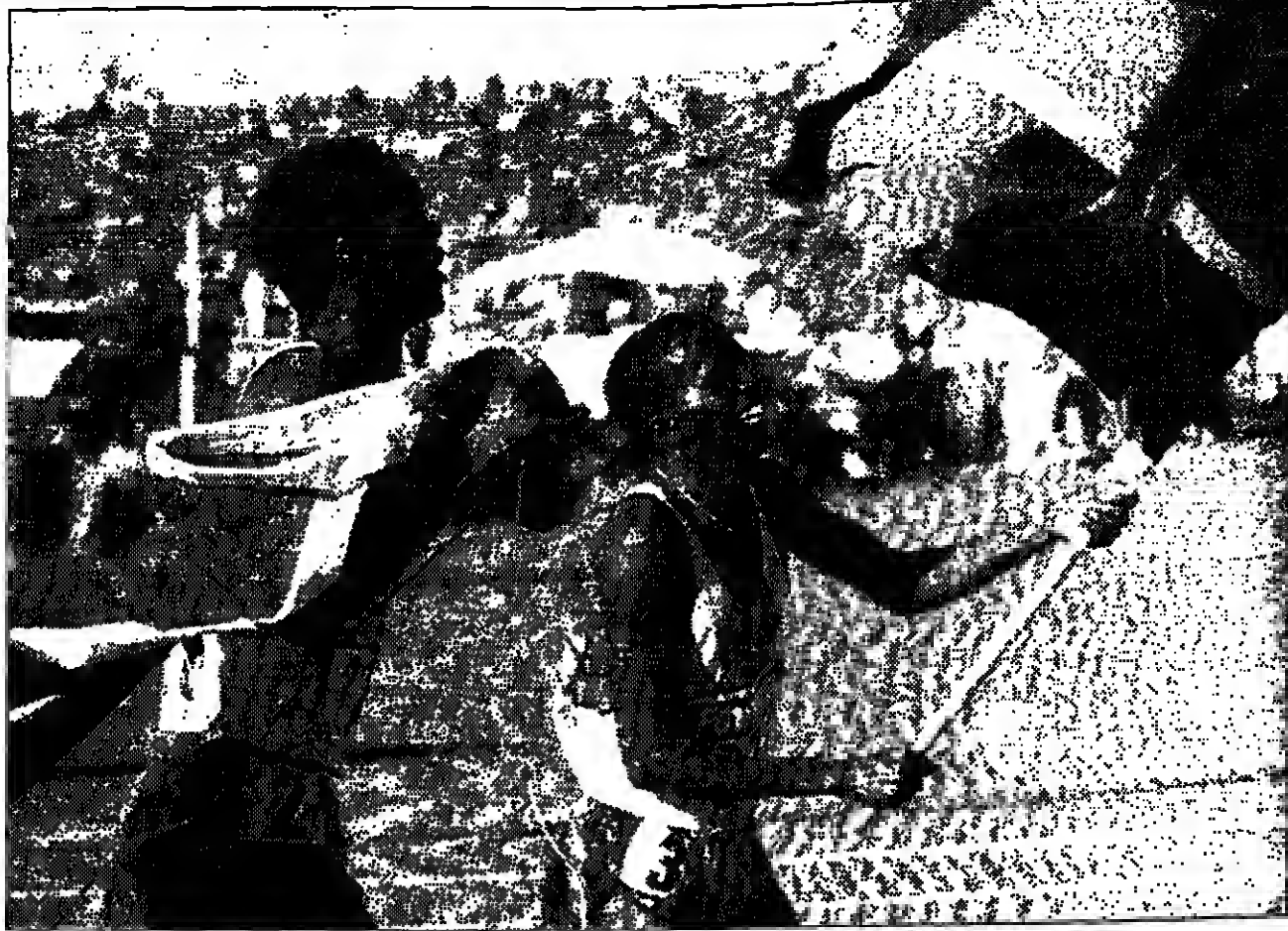
Emerson picked up the ball in midfield, carved a way through the home defence and crossed for Juninho, who struck the ball past goalkeeper Mark Crossley from the edge of the box.

Veteran England leftback Stuart Pearce equalised for Forest with a typically fierce free kick.

Arsenal, who sacked manager Bruce Rioch five days before the start of the season, put their boardroom disputes behind them to win 2-0 at Leicester thanks to goals from Dutch forward Dennis Bergkamp and out-of-favour England striker Ian Wright.

Bergkamp scored from the penalty spot in the first half and Wright came off the substitute's bench to seal the Gunners' victory with a strike in the final minute.

Aston Villa, who finished fourth in the league last season, recorded their second consecutive win, beating promoted Derby 2-0.



Kenya's Julius Chelule (right) and teammate Kipkurui Misoi celebrate the men's 3,000m steeplechase final at the World Junior Athletics Championships in Sydney Saturday. Chelule won the race in a time of 8 minutes and 33.09 seconds beating Misoi who finished second in at time of 8 minutes and 33.31 seconds (Reuters photo)

## Obikwelu makes 100-200m double triumph

SYDNEY (AFP) — Nigerian sprinter Francis Obikwelu repeated Ato Boldon's feat of a golden 100m-200m sprint double at the IAAF World Junior Athletics Championship, but that won't change his mind on reverting to 400m next year.

Obikwelu, the dominant sprinter here this week, smashed the 200m field Saturday to equal the championship record with a blistering 20.47 seconds to beat South African Riaan Dempers and American Bryan Harrison.

Seventeen-year-old Obikwelu, a member of the Nigerian 100m relay team at this month's Atlanta Olympics, beat his teammate Seun Ogunkoya to take gold in 10.21 seconds Thursday.

Yet despite Portugal-based Obikwelu's slashing form over the short sprints, he sees his future over the one lap of 400m running.

"Right now I'm really good at the 200m, but not so good at the 400m, but I'm a 400m runner and I am gearing myself towards the 400m at the 2000 Sydney Olympics," said Obikwelu.

"After I was beaten in the semifinals of the 400m at

the last World Junior Championships in Portugal, my coach put me in the 100-200m races to sharpen my speed and endurance for the 400m."

Obikwelu is also facing a decision as to whether to take out Portuguese nationality, but gave few clues at his press conference.

"I haven't decided whether to take up Portuguese nationality," he said.

"I'm very glad to be a Nigerian, my parents are living there, but I went to Portugal for some training and to improve my times."

"To train in Nigeria is very hard so that's why I went to Portugal to train because the weather is very nice, it's not too cold there."

Four years ago in Seoul, Trinidad's Boldon claimed the 100m-200m double and then, went on to become a dual sprint bronze medalist at the Atlanta Olympics behind Donovan Bailey in the 100m and Michael Johnson in the 200m.

Sylviane Felix claimed France's first gold medal at the championship with a popular victory in the 200m. Cheered on by a vociferous group of 80 compatriots, here as winners of a lot

tery promotion. Felix beat home Australian Lauren Hewitt and 100m champion Nora Ivanova of Bulgaria to win in a personal best 23.16 seconds.

"Right now I don't know if I will be running in the 200m or 400m in the future."

France has the premier women's sprinter with Marie-Jose Percec, winner of the 200m-400m double at the Atlanta games.

Kenya continued their dominance of the 3,000m steeplechase with a one-two finish in Saturday's final. Julius Chelule took gold in the year's best junior time of 8 minutes 33.09 seconds from Kipkurui Misoi.

It was Kenya's fifth straight win in the steeplechase at the World Juniors and earlier this month at Atlanta, Joseph Keter and Moses Kiptanui took gold-silver in the Olympic event.

Russia won two golds, a silver and a bronze on the fourth day of competition. Irina Stankina, disqualified while contesting the lead halfway through the 10 kilometre walk at the Atlanta Olympics, cleared out to win the 5,000m walk by more than 20 seconds

from compatriot Olga Panferova in 21:31.85.

Australian Natalie Saville crossed the line third but heard of her disqualification as she was on her celebration lap draped in the national flag before her home supporters. Romanian Claudia Iovan was promoted to third.

Elizaveta Chalygina won Russia's second gold in the heptathlon with 5,711 points from Finland's Johanna Halkoaho and Hana Dolezelova of the Czech Republic.

Elsewhere, Canadian Mark Boswell took out the high jump with a best effort of 2.24 metres. Poland's Maciej Palyszko claimed the hammer throw with 71.24m. Rene Luis Hernandez won the triple jump for Cuba with 16.50m and China's Song Ferma captured the shot put with 16.58m.

Kenyan Noah Ngeny shaded Algerian Miloud Ahaoui as the fastest qualifier heading into Sunday's 1,500m final. Ngeny won his semifinal in 3:42.48 with Ahaoui five-hundredths of a second slower.

## Syrian wins horse show jumping tournament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syria's Yasser Sharif won the first prize of the Royal International Horse Show Jumping Competition held at the Arabian Horse Club Friday.

With this win the Syrian team monopolised the championship titles by winning the Amra Competition Cup, Speed And Skill Competition, won by Shadi Ghareeb, and the Grand Prix Cup.

Jordan's Hani Bisharat came second in the Grand Prix Competition, riding Carlo, and Hussam Baho, riding Casino, came fourth.

In the Amra Competition which consisted of two stages, twenty-five jockeys participated and only three made it to the final stage in which Syria's Sharif came first with 48.04 seconds. Bisharat was second with 41.02 seconds and eight errors and Syria's Mappi Jada'an in the third place with 46.49 seconds and eight errors.

In the Speed And Skill Competition Syria's Shadi Ghareeb overtook Qatar's Sheikh Ali Althani to win the first place with 55 seconds, leaving Sheikh Ali in the second place with 56.84 seconds. Yasser Sharif came third with 59.72 seconds and Bisharat with 60.90 seconds took the fourth place.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, president of the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation, presented the winners with trophies and prizes.

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## Inquiry begins after 1 dies in 1,000 Lakes Rally crash

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — Finnish police promised Saturday a full inquiry after a spectator was killed and 31 injured in an accident at the start of the world championship 1,000 Lakes Rally.

Police stressed that normal safety precautions had been taken while some experts blamed driver error for the death of the 45-year-old unnamed Belgian after a competing car ploughed into the crowd Friday evening.

"It was a flagrant driver mistake," Kari Sohlberg, a Finnish member of the sport's governing International Automobile Federation, said on television.

A car driven by Dane Karsten Richardt went into the crowd of onlookers during the opening two-kilometre stage held on closed public roads in the host city of Jyväskylä.

The rally was stopped after the accident but the four-day event resumed Saturday.

"We are going to make a group investigation," a police spokesman said. He said police had made the usual course checks before the rally and approved safety arrangements.

The crowd was standing at least 60 metres from the road when the Mitsubishi of Richardt and his co-driver Ole Frederiksen skidded down an escape road into the cordoned-off viewing area.

The two Danes were shocked but they were believed to be not seriously injured. They both made statements to police soon after the crash.

Twelve people were still in hospital Saturday, two with serious injuries including a second Belgian, but doctors said their condition was stable.

Police said they would begin a thorough check of Richardt's car later Saturday. The spokesman could not say how long the inquiry would take.

"Everything seemed to be in order to make the race possible," Simo Lampinen, head of the organising committee, was quoted as saying in the daily newspaper Helsingin Sanomat.

A spokeswoman for the organisers said the spectators had been standing at the same distance from the road as in previous years.

A young woman was killed before last year's rally when she stepped in front of a car practising on the course.

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## Villeneuve wins pole in Belgian GP

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (AFP) — Jacques Villeneuve drove his Williams-Renault to pole position for Sunday's Belgian Formula One Grand Prix here Saturday, in a rain-interrupted qualifying session.

The French-Canadian earned his second pole for the season after Melbourne by clocking 1 minute 50.574 seconds on the 6.974 kilometre circuit.

This year's Driver's Championship leader, Englishman Damon Hill also in a Williams-Renault, joins Villeneuve on the front row of the starting grid, while German world champion

Michael Schumacher put his Ferrari into third.

The daunting Spa-Francorchamps circuit in the forests of Eastern Belgium is notorious for its fickle weather, and true to form, rain began to fall 40 minutes into the one-hour qualifying session.

Although competitive times were no longer competitive on the track, most of the drivers tested out their cars on the wet surface in the dying minutes of the session.

Hill has won here twice but finished second last year, out-classed by champion Michael Schumacher in treacherous conditions

of intermittent rain, the German having started from 16th on the grid.

Villeneuve is the only driver who can still challenge Hill for the title in which Hill has been runner-up for the past two years.

The Canadian trails Hill by 17 points with four races, offering a maximum 40 points, still to run.

It is the Canadian's first Formula One race on the Spa-Francorchamps circuit.

Only 19 cars are lining up for the Belgian race, the Italian Forti team again absent after legal problems with its sponsor and Italian

Giovanni Lavaggi failing to clock a time within the 107 per cent qualification cut-off in his Minardi-Ford.

The race is scheduled over 44 laps of the long track, half on public roads that have been closed for the weekend.

It is due to start at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) Sunday and in fine weather, should last about 1 hour and 35 minutes. Rain could see the race last a grueling two hours.

Hill leads the Driver's Championship on 79 points, followed by Villeneuve on 62. Frenchman Jean Alesi on 35 and Schumacher on 29.

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**Naser 56**  
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## Yemen exiles want referendum on south

DUBAI (AFP) — Former Yemeni Vice President Ali Salem Al Beid on Saturday called for a referendum on self-determination for southern Yemen as a former southern official challenged a lawsuit against 15 separatist leaders.

The south, where Mr. Beid had proclaimed the short-lived Democratic Republic of Yemen (DRY) during the May-July 1994 civil war, was defeated by the north.

In a statement published by the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat, a "source close to Beid" said that "the goal of the legislative elections planned for April is to legitimise the occupation of the south" of Yemen by northern troops.

Mr. Beid, former secretary general of the south's Yemen Socialist Party, called for a referendum to be held so the people of the south of Yemen can determine their own future. In July, the former vice president, who took refuge in Oman after the civil war, told Al Hayat that he still supported secession by the south and demanded a referendum be held under Arab and international supervision.

In another statement run by Al Hayat, DRY Vice-President Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, who moves between Egypt, Britain and Saudi Arabia, warned against "a renewal of the conflict and the 'Somalisation' of Yemen if the government continues to reject a rational reconciliation."

Mr. Jifri, who founded the national opposition front after he left Yemen, proposed that the charges against the 15 separatist leaders be resolved through arbitration by "Yemeni religious figures on the basis of Islamic law," "impartial Yemeni figures," "impartial men of law," Arab or international leaders or "a dialogue committee which drew up the reconciliation agreement signed in February 1994 in Arunban by northern and southern Yemeni leaders, under the sponsorship of King Hussein.

## Syria is committed to peace in return for land, Assad tells Japanese minister

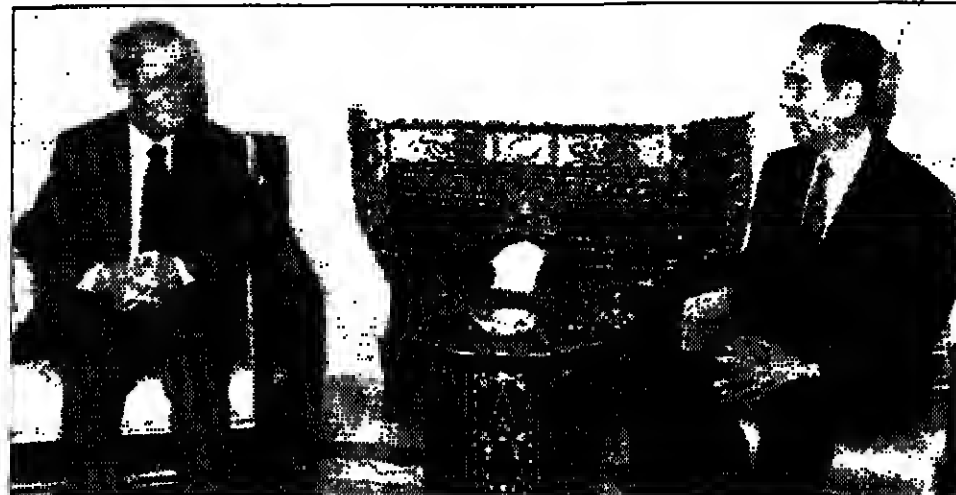
DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said on Saturday that he was still committed to making peace with Israel on the basis of the land-for-peace principle.

Mr. Assad's remarks on peace, his first after Syria and Israel last week accused each other of preparing for war, were made during talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, presidential spokesman Joutan Kourieh said.

"President Assad said that Syria was still committed to the peace process on the basis of the international legitimacy, (U.N.) resolutions and the land-for-peace principle," Mr. Kourieh said.

In his talks in Damascus, Mr. Ikeda explained to Syrian leaders his country's desire to play a more important political and economic role in the Middle East, where Western powers have the edge.

Mr. Ikeda met for two hours with President Assad. The



Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Saturday holds talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda (Reuters photo)

Japanese foreign minister said afterwards that the meeting focused on the stalled Middle East peace process and regional economy.

He said his visit was "an important step on the way of expanding and maintaining" relations with

Syria and other countries in the region.

Earlier Saturday, Mr. Ikeda signed a loan agreement that provides Syria with \$9.7 million to help finance an electricity plant.

Japan has in recent years emerged as a major financial

backer of Syria. In addition to Saturday's agreement, Tokyo has since 1990 extended \$766 million in soft loans to Syria.

Mr. Ikeda flew to Jordan Saturday. He will later visit Israel

(Continued on page 7)

## Palestinian journalists strike after Arafat guard beats camera crew

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — One of Yasser Arafat's personal security guards beat two journalists Saturday and the Palestinian Journalists Association called for a one-day boycott of Mr. Arafat's government to protest the incident.

A Palestinian Television crew was beaten by Major Jazaf Al Joul, a commander in the elite Force 17 unit in charge of security at Mr. Arafat's office, shortly after they arrived to cover a weekly cabinet meeting, the journalists association said.

An official in Mr. Arafat's office, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Maj. Joul had been arrested and that police were investigating the incident.

"We went to the leader of the presidential guards and informed them that we condemn this and are officially on strike today," Zacharya Al Talmas, head of the journalists association, told the Associated Press.

Both journalists, who work for the Reuters news agency were in fine condition later Saturday, Mr. Talmas said.

Reuters' Jerusalem bureau refused to comment on the incident or allow the camera crew to be interviewed.

Mr. Talmas said Maj. Joul prevented the journalists from entering Mr. Arafat's office and then beat them when the journalists complained. It was not immediately clear why the camera crew was denied entrance to the office.

Mr. Talmas said that the two journalists went directly to the journalists association to report the incident. The association then announced to its Gaza membership that a one-day boycott of coverage of Mr. Arafat's government was to be observed as a protest against the beating.

The Palestinian Journalists Association in Gaza said in a statement: "The syndicate is

boycotting the meeting at Mr. Arafat's office because of this attack which reflects an insult to the dignity of Palestinian journalists."

"The syndicate sent messages to the cabinet and ministry of information and to the commander of Force 17 and to Mr. Arafat's media adviser demanding they carry out the procedures to avoid repetition of such attacks on journalists," Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rdainah told Reuters in reaction.

"I will investigate the matter and I will take the suitable steps to solve such problems."

Human rights groups have cited intimidation of journalists as part of a series of abuses under the Palestinian National Authority since it began taking control of parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1994 in an interim peace deal with Israel.

Last week, the Palestinian cabinet decided to set up guide-

lines that would curtail the powers of security forces and probe those suspected of financial and moral corruption.

The decisions were based on the recommendations of a ministerial committee that probed the death of an inmate by torture in a Nablus prison in the West Bank and a demonstrator during a riot in the West Bank town of Tulkarem.

Four months ago, Palestinian journalists held a similar strike during a meeting of the Palestinian legislative council to protest treatment of the press.

Several newspapers have been closed temporarily or banned for criticising the authority and journalists and editors have been detained or received warnings by security branches. But Mr. Talmas said the situation is improving.

"Despite exceptions such as this, conditions for the press are better today than they were last year," he said.

## Kinkel to study charges linking murders to Iran

BONN (R) — Germany's Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, facing opposition demands to break off ties with Iran, said on Saturday he would study evidence that Tehran ordered the killing of Iranian dissidents on German soil before acting.

Former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani Sadr told a German court trying five men for the 1992 restaurant murder of three Iranian Kurds and their translator that the orders for the murder came from top Iranian officials (see page 2).

In an interview with a Berlin radio station Mr. Kinkel, one of the main proponents of Bonn's much-criticised policy of openness towards Iran, said he planned to study the court transcripts before drawing conclusions.

Opposition Social Democrat parliamentary Wilfried Penner urged the government to break off diplomatic ties with Iran immediately in the light of the Berlin murder trial.

In an interview with a German regional radio station Mr. Penner said that Bonn should act quickly in case it emerged from the trial that Tehran really had ordered the machinegun killings at a Berlin restaurant.

Mr. Bani Sadr told a heavily-fortified Berlin court on Thursday and Friday that Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and top Iranian government ministers

ordered the deaths with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's blessing.

"Of course we must evaluate what Mr. Bani Sadr said in the trial. And of course this is something which must be of significance to the type of relations we have with Iran," Mr. Kinkel said.

"I don't want to draw any hasty conclusions or make premature judgments in any form whatsoever, above all because I cannot and do not want to interfere in the trial," he said.

"I prefer to keep to the facts," said Mr. Kinkel, whose controversial policy of "critical dialogue" with Iran has drawn severe criticism particularly from Washington.

Tehran has consistently denied all involvement in the Berlin assassinations. But German authorities issued an arrest warrant in March for Iran's Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian in connection with the killings.

It is not the first time Bonn's policy towards Iran has caused embarrassment for Foreign Minister Kinkel.

Last year he was forced to cancel an Islamic conference in Bonn after the German parliament voted to bar Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati following his comments welcoming Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in November.

## Defence rests case in New York terror trial

Jury deliberations begin this week

NEW YORK (AP) — The defence has rested in the trial of three Middle East militants charged with plotting to blow up a dozen U.S. jetliners over Asia. The jury could begin deliberating by the end of this week.

Federal prosecutors spent 12 weeks presenting their case, summoning 47 witnesses and introducing more than 1,000 exhibits into evidence.

By contrast, the defence wrapped up in four days after calling just five witnesses and introducing about 35 exhibits. None of the defendants testified in the trial. They rested their case on Friday.

One defendant, Wali Khan Amin Shah, called no one to the stand. His lawyer, David Greenfield, suggested government officials in the Philippines — where prosecutors say the plot was centred — blocked access to potential witnesses.

The defendants face up to life in prison if convicted on conspiracy charges.

Prosecutors say Ramzi Yousef, aided by Shah and Abdul Hakim Murad, planned to con-

ceal bombs on a dozen planes headed for New York, Los Angeles and other U.S. cities in January 1995 in a two-day terror spree intended to sway American support for Israel.

The attacks were never carried out, but a bomb allegedly was smuggled aboard a Philippines Airlines jet in December 1994 as a practice run and exploded, killing a Japanese passenger and wounding 10 others.

The final witness was a neuropsychiatrist who had examined Murad, and generally supported his claim he was tortured while in custody in the Philippines.

Murad's attorney, Clover Barrett, has claimed his client made incriminating statements to U.S. authorities to avoid being returned to the Philippines.

Yousef, who acted as his own attorney, will be tried later this year as the alleged mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000 others. Four other men already have been convicted and sentenced to 240 years in prison each in that attack.

Mohammed told interrogators that during an argument, his wife insisted on speaking to him in English, a language he cannot understand, and refused to talk in their native Arabic, according to police officials.

The officials said the wife had recently begun studying the English language because she works in a shop dealing with foreign tourists. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

## No ceasefire in northern Iraq, rebel groups report

ERBIL (Agencies) — Rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq were involved in new fighting on Saturday, leaders from both sides said while denying they had agreed to a U.S.-sponsored ceasefire.

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces fought sporadic battles late Friday and Saturday around Rawandiz, northeast of the main Iraqi Kurdistan town of Erbil, the groups said without giving details of casualties.

"The fighting is still going on even now, a ceasefire has not been established," said Sami Abdul Rahman, a member of the KDP leadership based in Erbil.

Kamal Foad, of the PUK leadership, added: "There have been clashes throughout today in the Rawandiz area. We have agreed to start negotiations, but there is no ceasefire."

U.S. State Department Spokesman Glyn Davies said Friday that both PUK leader Jalal Talabani and KDP counterpart Massud Barzani agreed to a truce after talks with U.S. officials.

"The two leaders have agreed to cease the fighting (and) return their forces to the positions held before the current fighting began on Saturday," he said in a statement.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said KDP leaders had spoken to U.S. officials by telephone, but that his group would not agree to a truce until Washington condemned the PUK for starting the latest round of fighting, and Iran for giving military support to the PUK.

"We cannot confirm a ceasefire because we have those conditions," he added.

Mr. Foad also confirmed contact between U.S. and PUK officials, and said: "We are prepared to have a meeting between the two leaders and to start negotiations. But first we must have a ceasefire."

The week-long clashes between the rival groups, which both sides say have claimed more than 100 casualties, are the worst since a U.S.-brokered truce in September last year.

The two factions have jointly controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the allied forces imposed a no-fly zone on the region after the Gulf war in 1991.

The PUK accuses the KDP of collaborating with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, while the KDP says Iran actively supports the PUK. Each denies the other's claims.

The KDP and the PUK both won 50 per cent of the parliamentary seats in 1992 elections, but they fell out in 1994 over distribution of tax revenue and power-sharing.

The conflict has so far claimed an estimated 2,200 lives. Iraq meanwhile called on the Kurdish factions to shake off U.S. intervention in their affairs.

"The Kurdish people realise they are being used in dirty regional and global game, which is why they are ready today... to push for their salvation by developing their autonomy within the framework of a strong Iraq," said the official Iraqi daily Al Jumhuriya.

The paper said: "The United States, Britain and the Zionists want to cause civil war in Iraq, Turkey and Iran, just as they want to cause war between these countries."

"The abnormal situation in the north of Iraq, which has become a haven for armed groups, mercenaries and agents, has serious consequences for the stability of countries in the region, as well as their security and unity," said Al Jumhuriya.

The Iranian news agency IRNA reported the PUK accused Iraqi government forces of killing two civilians in shelling in northern Iraq.

IRNA said it was monitoring a report from a radio station affiliated to the PUK.

## NATO to discuss new peace force for Bosnia — Ruehe

BONN (AFP) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) will next year set up a new, smaller, but powerful military force of some 20,000 to continue maintaining peace in Bosnia, German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe said in an interview made public on Saturday.

It is the first time a minister from a NATO member country has publicly acknowledged that a new operation will be implemented after the withdrawal of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) at the end of the year.

NATO will begin talks next month on a "totally new and different" mandate for a peace-keeping force in Bosnia, Mr. Ruehe said in an interview with a Sunday newspaper.

He said NATO defence ministers would begin discussions on the subject at their meeting on Sept. 25 and 26 in Bergen, Norway.

"We must prevent war and massacres starting all over again," Mr. Ruehe said, emphasising that this goal could be achieved "with far fewer troops in number (than IFOR) but with more muscle."

The force would be up to 20,000-strong, compared with the 60,000 IFOR troops currently based in the former Yugoslav republic, and should be able to counter "strong external support, in particular from air

forces," Mr. Ruehe said.

Until now, NATO member states refused to comment on post-IFOR Bosnia, for fear it could have an effect on elections to be held in Bosnia on Sept. 14.

One of the main questions to be resolved is to what extent the United States, which is embroiled in campaigning for its own presidential elections, will take part in the new force.

Mr. Ruehe's statement follows information leaked in July by unofficial sources.

A NATO official, who requested to remain anonymous, then told AFP that maintaining a multinational military presence in Bosnia in 1997 was "already decided."

However, like Germany, other NATO states are believed to consider that for future peacekeeping, a reduced force should suffice, backed up by rapid reaction forces held in reserve and considerable air support.

In the same interview, Mr. Ruehe argued that the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland would belong to NATO as early as 1999.

"I am persuaded that the NATO summit in the first half of next year will decide to begin negotiations on membership, and more particularly, that of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary," he said.

## Girl bleeds to death during circumcision procedure in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A 14-year-old Egyptian girl bled to death on Saturday during a female circumcision operation, the second child to die from the procedure in two months, police officials said.

They said the doctor who performed the surgery was being sought. His name was not given.

The victim was identified as Amina Abdul Hamid Abu Elah. She died during the surgery in the doctor's clinic in the village of Ashfin in Qalyubia province just north of Cairo, police said.

Last month, an 11-year-old girl bled to death after a botched circumcision performed by a barber in another village north of Cairo.

In April, a barber in a village near Assuit in southern

Egypt was sentenced to a year in prison for causing permanent damage to a nine-year-old girl during a circumcision operation.

The procedure can involve cutting away the tip of the clitoris or removing all exterior genitals.

Many Egyptians follow the tradition blindly, thinking the operation curbs a girl's sexual appetite or enhances her cleanliness. Others believe it is ordained by Islam. Muslim scholars reject this. Some Egyptian Christians follow the practice, too.

There is no law that specifically outlaws female circumcision in Egypt, but the government has taken steps to try to stop it.

Barbers and midwives, who are the traditional prac-

titioners, face prosecution if caught on charges of performing surgery without a medical licence.

Last month Health Minister Ismail Sallam, under pressure from women's and human rights groups, banned all registered doctors, nurses and health care workers from performing circumcisions.

Earlier, the ministry had banned the procedure in state-run hospitals, and Mr. Sallam in July expanded the prohibition to include private clinics as well. Mr. Sallam said violators faced "severe punishment," but did not specify what the penalties would be.

Police officials on Saturday said Abu Elah was taken by her father, an electrical repairman, to have the

circumcision performed.

The officials said the doctor has fled the village and that an arrest warrant has been issued. They spoke on condition they not be identified by name.

Despite the dangers to health, an estimated 70 per cent to 90 per cent of girls in Egypt are circumcised before puberty.

### Wife set ablaze

A villager in southern Egypt doused his wife with kerosene and set her afire after an argument in which she spoke English to him instead of Arabic, police officials said Saturday.

The woman, identified as Najah Ahmad Awyeda, 35, died from severe burns in a hospital near the southern

town of Luxor, the officials said. They said the incident occurred earlier in the week but did not have the specific date.

The police officials said the husband, Abdul Ati Mohammad, 40, was arrested and charged in his wife's death.

Mohammed told interrogators that during an argument, his wife insisted on speaking to him in English, a language he cannot understand, and refused to talk in their native Arabic, according to police officials.

The officials said the wife had recently begun studying the English language because she works in a shop dealing with foreign tourists. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

## U.S. vegetarian bus driver's rights violated

LOS ANGELES (R) — A vegetarian bus driver's civil rights were violated by a municipal bus company that fired him for refusing to hand out free hamburger coupons, a federal agency has ruled. "This is a wonderful day for me and vegetarians everywhere because we are being taken seriously," Bruce Anderson said in a statement Friday. California's Orange County Transit Authority dismissed Mr. Anderson in June after he chose not to give passengers coupons from a fast-food chain that runs ads featuring sandwiches oozing sauce.

## Oldest Titanic survivor sets sail for site

NEW YORK (R) — At age 99, Edith Haisman has seen plenty and lived through a lot. But the oldest living survivor of the Titanic disaster cannot bring herself to look over the side of a ship, even 84 years after the tragedy. Ms. Haisman was packed and ready to set sail on board a cruise ship to visit the site of the sunken ship and witness efforts to pull a giant slab of its hull from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. The fragile great-great-grandmother, who travels in a wheelchair and is accompanied on her journey by daughter Dorothy Kendle, planned to throw a wreath into the ocean in honour of her father, one of 1,500 people who died in the April 14, 1912, tragedy. Ms. Haisman and two other survivors, 88-year-old Michel Navratil, a retired professor from France, and Eleanor Shuman, an 86-year-old Illinois resident, are the guests of honour.

## Poland's dashing cavalry may ride again

WARSAW (R) — Poland's famous cavalry is set to ride again. If a group of enthusiasts who met in Warsaw has its way, they formed an association which aims to train and equip a cavalry squadron and then offer it to the Defence Ministry for use on ceremonial occasions. Polish News Agency (PAP) said. Deputy Prime Minister Roman Jagielinski was elected president. The association also includes other parliamentary deputies from his co-ruling Peasant Party, army officers and cavalry veterans as well as amateur riders. Poland's dashing ulans last won renown by holding out for a month against an invasion by mechanised Nazi German forces and then by Soviet troops in 1939.

## Couple found alive on beach after air crash

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — A Canadian couple presumed to have died in a plane crash three days ago were found alive Friday almost by chance on a nearby beach, police said. Brian and Sheila Johnson were piloting a light plane on a sightseeing flight Tuesday on the remote west coast of Vancouver Island when they crashed into a lake. Rescue crews later found their identification floating among the wreckage and gave up the search, presuming they had died. A Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer flew to the site at Gaultier Lake Friday with a coroner and divers to compile a final report on the incident. As he circled his helicopter to take pictures of the crash site, he spotted the pair on a beach about a mile away.